

The Abortion Expansion Act: Lives in the Balance



DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER New York State Catholic Conference

Sadly, New York State is the Abortion Capital of our nation, with a rate of 29.6 abortions for every 1,000 women of reproductive age. That's more than twice the national average. New York legalized abortion in 1970, three years before the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Roe vs. Wade*. Abortion is legal here for any reason up to 24 weeks of pregnancy, and any time after that if the mother's life is at risk. So even if *Roe* were to be overruled, the vast majority of abortions in our state would continue to be legal and available.

The Governor and the Democratic leadership in the New York State Legislature want to go even further, and make abortion less safe and more expansive than it is now. They've promised to enact the so-called "Reproductive Health Act" early in 2019. This bill would:

- Allow non-doctors to perform abortions.
- Allow abortions for any reason in the third trimester of pregnancy right up to a mother's due date.
- Remove all criminal penalties for abortion, even if it was contrary to the mother's choice, such as the intentional targeting of an unborn child in an act of violence.
- Remove our state's protections for infants accidentally born alive in the course of an abortion.

This extremism goes far beyond *Roe vs. Wade*!

Take Action Now

Pro-life New Yorkers need to stand up in unison and make their voices heard on behalf of women and their unborn children. Tell your state lawmakers that enough is enough.

Here's a simple way to do this. Go to the New York State Catholic Conference website at www.nyscatholic.org. Click on "Stop Abortion Expansion." Enter your home address information, then select "Send Message." Your message will automatically be sent to your State Senator, State Assembly Representative and the Governor. **Please do it right away. It is so important for your legislators to learn of your opposition to this bill before they vote on it, which is likely to be on January 22** (anniversary of *Roe vs. Wade*). While you are there, you can join the Catholic Action Network and receive occasional emails (rarely more than once a month, often less) when issues come up which need us to act by contacting our legislators.

Tragically, the political reality following the 2018 mid-term elections means that we are unlikely to defeat this measure in the State Legislature. Governor Andrew Cuomo is a strong proponent of the bill and has promised to sign it into law within the first 30 days of the legislative session.

If the legislation is indeed enacted into law this year, we must do all we can to ensure that vulnerable women facing unplanned pregnancies do not avail themselves of it.

Continued on back page ➡

What More Can We Do?

As a caring and compassionate people, we can also:



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1. Pray.

Pray for the intercession of St. Gianna Molla, the patron saint of mothers, physicians and preborn children. Pray for changed minds, changed hearts and a deeper awakening to the sacredness and dignity of all human life.

2. Provide life-affirming choices for women.

Here in the Diocese of Rochester (DOR), there are several resource centers to provide women facing unplanned pregnancies with alternatives to abortion. All offer their services free of charge. If you or someone you know is struggling with this, please (urge them to) contact

- Catholic Family Center 585-546-7220 ask for Pregnancy Counseling www.cfcrochester.org search for Pregnancy Counseling
- Women's Care Center 585-865-0360 womenscareroc@aol.com
- Focus Pregnancy Center 585-200-9477 focusphc@gmail.com
- Birthright in Rochester and Ithaca 800-550-4900 www.birthright.org
- CareNet (several sites in the Diocese) www.care-net.org/find-a-pregnancy-center

3. Help women who have suffered an abortion.

Hope and healing following abortion is also available in the Diocese of Rochester (for women and men). All services are free of charge. If you or someone you know is struggling with this, please (urge them to) contact

- Project Rachel
888-9-rachel (888-972-2435) return2peace@rachelroc.org
www.hopeafterabortion.org

4. Build the Culture of Life.

- Talk the pro-life talk... with your family members, friends, co-workers, schoolmates. We can build consensus and change the culture one person at a time.
- Help educate the next generation. We must nurture young pro-life leaders who are unconditionally, unapologetically pro-life, who see the connection between their faith and their politics, and who are willing to put their faith into action.
- Walk the pro-life walk...every minute of every hour of every day. Teach people to love and value one another. Our actions and words must reflect our respect and deep appreciation for the wondrous gift of human life.

