



# Act Now to Let Your State Senators Know Abortion Expansion is Not Good for Women or Children!

## Share Your Views Now

Make your voice heard **before the budget is due on April 1** to prevent the expansion of abortion in New York State. Governor Cuomo included pending legislation in his budget bill that would further diminish the rights of the unborn in our state and endanger their mothers.

Today 76% of Americans support some limitations on abortion. Despite more and more states enacting sensible limitations on abortions, New York State is doing the opposite. Please review the provisions of this new abortion proposal, outlined here, reach out to your State Senator to oppose this bill (instructions on the back page), and encourage your family and friends to do the same.

If you or anyone you know is struggling with a pregnancy, there are pregnancy resource centers in every area of the Diocese to provide support. In Monroe County, there are several, including Women's Care Center, Focus Pregnancy Center, and Birthright, to name a few. Catholic Family Center also offers support and help with parenting or adoption options. In most other areas of the Diocese, there is a CareNet Center, as well as Birthright in Ithaca. These centers are there to help every step of the way. Trained, confidential volunteers (priests, deacons, religious, lay people, and professional counselors) are also available to offer hope and healing after abortion. Call 888-9-rachel (888-972-2435) or email [return2peace@rachel.org](mailto:return2peace@rachel.org).

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. **April 1<sup>st</sup>** is the date the state budget is due, so please make your request to your State Senator NOW to **leave abortion out of the budget** (instructions on the back page).

*Suzanne Stack  
Diocesan Life Issues Coordinator  
Diocesan Public Policy Committee  
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester*

## Current Status: What is at risk?

On January 16, 2018, Governor Cuomo introduced his budget bill, S.7511. In the bill, he included an abortion expansion proposal. If the budget passes, virtually all limitations on abortion will be lifted. This is particularly dangerous, because the law requires a budget to be passed **by April 1**.

*(Over)*

## What would this abortion expansion legislation do?

The Governor's bill would align New York with the most liberal abortion laws in the world.

- The bill would remove our current law's limit and allow abortions after 24 weeks. Studies show that a fetus experiences pain at 20 weeks.
- 5-10% of babies are born alive after a late-term abortion procedure, and those infants are currently protected. This bill would eliminate the law that requires that a baby born alive after an abortion be given adequate health care.
- This bill would permit non-doctors to do abortions – the State government could grant a license to perform abortions to virtually anyone.
- The bill would eliminate all criminal penalties for abortions – so even if an abortion was against a mother's will (involuntary or coerced), or if an unborn child is deliberately targeted for an act of violence, it could not be prosecuted.

## What can we do about this?

The Action Center of the New York State Catholic Conference has made it very easy for us to oppose this proposal through their website. The following steps will allow you to sign your name electronically to a pre-written letter (which you have the option to edit in your own words) that will go directly to your senator:

1. Go to [www.nyscatholic.org](http://www.nyscatholic.org)
2. Search for Abortion Expansion.
3. Follow the small red link on the top left side "Take action now." You can also go there by typing this into your browser: <http://www.nyscatholic.org/nys-catholic-conference-action-center/>, and look for the action that says "Oppose Abortion Expansion in State Budget!"
4. Enter your information.
5. Select "Send Message."
6. While you're there, be sure to sign up for the *Catholic Action Network* so that you'll get future alerts of messages to send to your legislators right to your email inbox. Alerts are sent sporadically as issues come to the forefront in the legislative process, rarely more often than once a month, usually less often.

