



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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35th Anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* ***Women Remain in Danger of Losing Reproductive Rights***

It has been 35 years since *Roe v. Wade* asserted women's right to reproductive choice in the United States, and women are still fighting for choice. New York State's abortion law was created before *Roe v. Wade* and has not changed since. Though groundbreaking for its time, the law needs serious revisions to bring women's healthcare into the 21st century.

Now that the Supreme Court has actively restricted our abortion rights, it is urgent that we change New York law to protect the health of women. As there is currently no explicit, affirmative right to an abortion written into New York state law, we can no longer rely on federal law to ensure our rights. If *Roe* is overturned, there will be no guaranteed protection for women's reproductive health and no protection at all for women's health after 24 weeks. New York's current laws are failing women.

The Reproductive Health and Privacy Protection Act is new legislation that takes the principles underlying *Roe v. Wade* and puts them squarely into New York law. The legislation protects the fundamental right of a woman and her doctor – not politicians – to make private medical decisions. It makes clear that women in New York have the right to privacy and the right to decide to end or continue a pregnancy, and ensures that abortion will remain legal in New York State, even if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned. The Reproductive Health and Privacy Protection will codify New York's longstanding support of reproductive freedom, while ensuring that New York State is prepared if a weakening of *Roe* or further federal encroachments threaten the right to choose.

"This is the time for New York State to stand up as a proud leader for women and for women's reproductive rights," said Sonia Ossorio, president of NOW-NYC.

The National Organization for Women is the nation's largest organization working to advance women's rights and improve women's lives. The New York City Chapter of NOW, founded in 1966, is the largest chapter in the country with 7,000 members locally and 35,000 statewide. NOW-NYC works to protect women's reproductive choices, end violence against women and eliminate sex discrimination in our schools, workplaces, and the justice system in New York.

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