



**NOW-NYC**  
*The Founding Chapter*

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David A. Paterson  
State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Paterson,

The National Organization for Women-New York City urges you to take immediate action to stop the inhumane treatment of incarcerated pregnant women by signing the “Anti-Shackling Bill” (S.1290-A/A.3373-A), which passed overwhelmingly in the Assembly and unanimously in the Senate. The bill would prohibit incarcerated, pregnant women from being shackled or restrained during transport for childbirth, while in labor or delivery, and during recovery. (The new policy would allow for the cuffing of one wrist in extreme circumstances.)

The need for a woman to be able to move during childbirth is critical for the health and safety of both the woman and her unborn child. Unrestricted movement can also help relieve pain and ensure adequate oxygen flow to the fetus.

There is absolutely no reason to leave this antiquated and barbaric law on the books. This bill has overwhelming support across a broad coalition of organizations and human rights groups. The U.S. Bureau of Prisons policy has already barred this practice, and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Public Health Association have condemned it, in alignment with international human rights law. Four other states have already passed similar legislation, and we hope that New York can join this group of leaders in support of fair, ethical, and humane treatment of incarcerated women in these special circumstances.

Sincerely,

Sonia Ossorio

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