

# Welcome to the **Information Session**

*on* The NJ Reproductive Freedom Act  
(S3030/A4848)



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NEW JERSEY  
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# Opening Prayer

## Prayer for Pregnant Women



O Blessed Mother, you received the good news of the incarnation of Christ, your Son, with faith and trust. Grant your protection to all pregnant mothers facing difficulties.

Guide us as we strive to make our parish communities places of welcome and assistance for mothers in need. Help us become instruments of God's love and compassion.

Mary, Mother of the Church, graciously help us build a culture of life and a civilization of love, together with all people of good will, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life.

Amen.

# Governor Murphy Announces NJ Reproductive Freedom Act (S3030/A4848)

- According to the Governor, this bill is a proactive piece of legislation to protect and expand New Jerseyan's ability to receive reproductive care, including contraception and abortion, in the wake of the death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.
- If passed, **the RFA would codify into law the findings of Roe v. Wade**, meaning that abortion would remain legal in New Jersey even if the case were overturned by the Supreme Court.
- New Jersey Bishops immediately issued a Statement voicing their strong opposition to this bill (10/5/20).

Available here:

<https://njcatholic.org/reproductive-freedom-act>





# Some background

**In January 1973, the Supreme Court of the United States gave our nation *Roe v. Wade* and its companion decision *Doe v. Bolton*, and, in doing so, effectively removed every legal protection from human beings prior to birth.**

Over the past 47 years:

- Millions of innocent lives have been destroyed before birth.
- Countless women have been traumatized so deeply by abortion that they spend years struggling to find peace, healing, and reconciliation.
- Men grieve because they could not "choose" to protect a child they helped bring into existence.
- Society has increasingly coarsened by toleration and acceptance of acts that purposely destroy human life.

# New Jersey

- In recent years, individual states have passed laws to regulate or limit abortion.
- Sadly, New Jersey remains one of the few states without any major restrictions on abortion such as: mandatory consent for minors, parental notification, waiting periods or limits on publically funded abortion.
- In 2017, there were a reported 48,110 abortions performed in our state.
- In 2020, New Jersey allocated \$9.5 million of taxpayer money to Planned Parenthood, the leading abortion provider.

# RFA and Safety

## Women:

- The RFA voids all life-protecting rules and regulations with regards to abortion as promulgated by the New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners.
- It allows non-physicians, including but not limited to a certified midwife, advanced practice nurse or physician assistant, to perform an abortion procedure in a non-hospital setting.
- The RFA also allows for abortion throughout all nine-months of pregnancy. The risk of complications from abortion rises exponentially the later in a pregnancy the procedure is performed. Each of these factors clearly puts the safety of women at risk.

## Victims:

- The RFA also applies to non-New Jersey residents. Since abortion and sex trafficking are undeniably linked, New Jersey could become a magnet for traffickers if the RFA becomes law.

# RFA and Rights

- **Babies in the Womb:** Under the RFA, it is established that the fertilized egg, the embryo or the fetus (all terms for early human life) does not have independent rights. If passed, the RFA will enshrine into law that living babies in the womb, even if viable, have no rights.
- **Healthcare workers:** The RFA eliminates New Jersey's long standing conscience protection clause which protects the rights of healthcare workers to refuse to perform or assist in abortion because doing so would violate their religious beliefs.
- **Taxpayers:** The RFA will require that the state legislature allocate funding for abortion services and contraceptives in the annual state budget.
- **Newborns:** The RFA eliminates the requirement for an autopsy to be conducted in a case where a fetal death occurs without medical attendance. This strips away the rights of a newborn baby born alive and clearly opens the doors to infanticide.

# RFA and Future laws

- **Future:** Finally, the RFA even goes so far as to invalidate and prohibit the future adoption of all laws, rules and regulations, ordinances, resolutions, policies, etc., that conflict with the provisions or the express or implied intent of the RFA.



# How a bill becomes a law in New Jersey

1. The idea is developed.
2. The Bill is drafted.
3. The Bill is introduced.
4. Committee Reference.
5. Committee Action.
6. Second Reading.
7. Third Reading.
8. House Vote.
9. Second House.
10. Governor's Action
11. Law.



# What you can do:

**Education** – Educate yourself and others – Resources are available at

<https://njcatholic.org/reproductive-freedom-act>

**Advocacy** – Contact your state legislators and urge them to oppose S3030/A4848. Find your legislators and talking points at

<https://njcatholic.org/reproductive-freedom-act>

**Prayer** – Pray and fast for an end to abortion. Attend Respect Life prayer events in January. Novena for Life Jan. 21-29. Special prayer initiatives to be announced.

**Outreach** – “Walking with Moms in Need” Initiative – ramp up efforts to support/assist local Pregnancy Aid Centers.

<https://www.walkingwithmoms.com/>



# Abortion's Aftermath and a Message of Hope and Healing – Cheryl Riley

*For help after abortion: <https://hopeafterabortion.com/>*



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**For more information, visit:**

<https://njcatholic.org/reproductive-freedom-act>