

Support the Reproductive Health and Privacy Protection Act in New York State

WHEREAS the Reproductive Health and Privacy Protection Act (RHPPA) has been sent by Governor Spitzer to the New York State Senate and Assembly in an effort to update and clarify New York State laws on abortion and contraception,¹ and

WHEREAS New York's current abortion law, enacted in 1970, does not contain the foundations upon which *Roe* was decided, including the fundamental right of women to make private medical decisions, nor does it take into account how abortion care is provided today,¹ and

WHEREAS The RHPPA removes abortion from New York criminal statutes and makes it a matter of professional and medical discretion, as well as repealing outdated statutes such as one criminalizing provision of nonprescription contraception to minors,² and

WHEREAS The RHPPA protects the fundamental right of a woman and her doctor to make private reproductive health care decisions,² and

WHEREAS The RHPPA will codify New York's longstanding support of reproductive freedom and ensure that our state continues to protect and respect women's rights to make fundamental reproductive health decisions if the right to choose is threatened by future weakening of *Roe* or other federal encroachments,² and

WHEREAS the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Policy on Reproductive Decisions states, "should a woman become pregnant, it is her legal right to make reproductive decisions."⁶ Further, this policy was amended in 2006 to recognize "illegal abortions are associated with maternal morbidity and mortality),³ and

WHEREAS the New York State Academy of Family Physicians (NYSAFP) agreed in resolution '06-'05, "Criminalization of Medical Practice" to take all reasonable and necessary steps to ensure that medical decision making, exercised in good faith, does not become a violation of state or federal criminal laws and oppose any legislation which gives the government the responsibility to define appropriate medical practice and regulate such practice through the use of criminal penalties,"⁴ and

WHEREAS NYSAFP affirmed in resolution '06-'03, "Affirming Safe Legal Abortion Care as a Public Health Need," that safe, legal abortion must remain available in order to prevent the maternal morbidity and mortality associated with illegal abortion,⁵ and

WHEREAS NYSAFP stated in resolution '05-'02, "Preventing Restriction of Scope of Practice," that it is the community of Family Medicine that determines and will continue to determine scope of practice for family physicians and the definition of family medicine. Scope of practice will be determined by training and experience,⁶ now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the NYSAFP affirm that existing policy on scope of practice, criminalization of medical practice, and the importance of safe legal abortion care, indicate our support for the Reproductive Health and Privacy Protection Act in New York State by writing an official memo of support, and further be it

RESOLVED that the NYSAFP instruct its lobbyists to support the RHPPA with advocacy efforts in the New York State Senate and New York State House of Assembly.

¹ Governor's Program Bill Memorandum: Reproductive Health and Privacy Protection Act.

² Program Bill #16. Reproductive Health and Privacy Protection Act.

³ American Academy of Family Physicians. Policy on Reproductive Decisions. Available at <http://www.aafp.org/online/en/home/policy/policies/r/reproductivedecisions.html>. Accessed January 18, 2007.

⁴ NYSAFP Resolution 06-05 Criminalization of Medical Practice.

⁵ NYSAFP Resolution 06-03. Affirming Safe Legal Abortion Care as a Public Health Need.

⁶ NYSAFP Resolution 05-02. Preventing Restriction of Scope of Practice.