



OFFICE OF THE CARDINAL
1011 FIRST AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10022

March 6, 2008

Dear friends in the Lord:

A very serious matter before our State legislators needs to be addressed by all Catholics and, indeed, all persons of good will.

Legislation proposed by the Governor, "The Reproductive Health and Privacy Protection Act," would establish abortion as a so-called "fundamental right." This bill constitutes an attack on human dignity and the well-being of society as a whole.

The laws of New York State are extremely lenient, permitting the destruction of life in the womb throughout pregnancy. Our State has the highest abortion rate in the nation. This is already a truly tragic situation. Yet, this bill would force us even deeper into the culture of death by allowing non-physicians to destroy innocent life and by rendering abortion virtually immune from any reasonable regulation.

Under the guise of eliminating discrimination, the Governor's proposal would also endanger the religious liberty of the Church. Our hospitals, social service agencies, and even our schools would be vulnerable to being forced to cooperate in abortion and other morally objectionable practices at the risk of losing their state-issued licenses.

A society cannot survive if it fails to protect the right to life of all of its members, and the freedom to practice one's faith. I urgently call upon all Catholics and persons of good will to ensure that this profoundly unjust bill be rejected. Please contact your State legislators about this proposed legislation and please join the Catholic Advocacy Network by going to the New York State Catholic Conference website, www.nyscatholic.org

Thanking you for your commitment to protecting human life at all stages, from conception to natural death, may I remain

Very truly yours in Christ,

Edward Cardinal Egan
Archbishop of New York