



## New York Women's Equality Coalition

nywomensequality.org • facebook.com/NYWomensEquality • @ny4women

For immediate release: March 25, 2015

Contact: Ujala Sehgal, [usehgal@nyclu.org](mailto:usehgal@nyclu.org), 646-207-1497

### **Assembly Protects Reproductive Health Care for New Yorkers Women's Equality Coalition Supports Assembly Action**

Today the New York State Assembly again stood up for women by passing the Reproductive Services Act (RSA) which ensures our state laws regulating abortion are constitutional. The Women's Equality Coalition thanks the Assembly for knowing that access to the full range of comprehensive reproductive health care is the start of strong New York women and families.

"The right to decide when, whether, and how to have a child is fundamental to women's autonomy, dignity, and equality," said Corinne Carey, co-chair of the Women's Equality Coalition. "This right affects every aspect of a woman's life: her economic status, her educational aspirations, her career goals, her health, and the health of her family. That's why reforming New York's abortion law and bringing it line with the current federal law and sound health practices is so incredibly important to our Coalition."

The RSA does not change how abortion is practiced or regulated in our state. New York law regarding abortion was written in 1970, three years prior to *Roe v Wade*, which established that women have a right to abortion up to viability or at any time to protect the life or health of a woman. As federal law, *Roe* has and is followed by every state, including New York, for the past forty years. *Roe* also required states to include the life or health exception into their laws so today's action is long overdue

"New York State women must have the ability to set the course of their own lives when making personal health decisions," said Barbara Bartoletti of the Women's Equality Coalition. "Today the Assembly affirmed they will continue working on behalf of all women to end discrimination at home and in the workplace, remove gender-based barriers and create a more equitable future for all."

The Women's Equality Coalition continues to support any legislation that advances the rights of New York's women and families and we look forward to continue working in partnership with our legislators during the 2015 Legislative Session to break down the barriers that perpetuate discrimination and advance the measures we find crucial in the fight for women's rights, including:

- Implementing economic justice measures to ensure fair and equitable treatment in the workplace; and
- Adopting anti-discrimination laws to ensure that women have equal access to housing and employment.

The Women's Equality Coalition is led by a Steering Committee with representatives from the American Association of University Women of New York State (AAUW-NYS), with 34 branches and 5,000 members statewide; the League of Women Voters with 60 local league chapters; Family Planning Advocates of New York which represents family planning providers statewide, including nine Planned Parenthood Affiliates, the New York Civil Liberties Union with its 8 regional offices and over 50,000 members; the New York State YWCA with 21 regional Ys; the PowHer New York Equal Pay campaign with more than 60 partner organizations across the state; the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence; NOW-NYS, with 24 chapters across the state representing over 40,000 women; Planned Parenthood

Advocates of New York, the NYS Anti-Trafficking Network with 140 member organizations including Sanctuary for Families; and A Better Balance, which provides legal services for hundreds of women across New York State.

Learn more at: [nywomensequality.org](http://nywomensequality.org)

Twitter: @NY4Women #UpgradeNY

Facebook: [facebook.com/nywomensequality](https://facebook.com/nywomensequality)

###