

# ★ ★ On the Legislative Watch ★ ★

## 1. The "Bathroom Bill"

S6349 (Squadron) / A5039 (Gottfried)

The official name of this bill is the "Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act" (GENDA), but most state elected officials recognize the legislation as the "Bathroom Bill". If enacted, this legislation would permit any man or woman who simply claims, acts, or thinks they are an opposite sex to use opposite-sex restrooms, locker rooms and shower facilities. It would make denying access of these facilities to transvestites and cross-dressers a punishable hate crime.

## 2. Budget Amendment Prohibiting Medicaid Funding of Abortion (Sponsorship to Be Announced)

The amendment is commonly referred to as the "Butler Amendment." Assemblyman Denis Butler was a strong advocate for senior citizens, the disabled and the unborn. For over two decades, Assemblyman Denis Butler (D-Queens) introduced this potentially life-saving measure. In 2010, Assemblyman Butler died, but his pro-life amendment lives on. The amendment would permit public financing of abortion in a few limited cases including rape, incest, and to save the life of the mother, but end taxpayer funding of abortion in other cases.

## 3. The Reproductive Health Act

S2844 (Stewart-Cousins) / A6112 (Glick)

The Reproductive Health Act (RHA) is being billed as a mere codification of the 1973 US Supreme Court Decision known as Roe v. Wade, but in fact it would be the greatest expansion of abortion rights since that infamous 1973 Decision. The bill has many flaws, including violation of religious freedoms and removing what few restrictions exist on abortion, ultimately endangering the life and health of women.

## 4. Abortifacients for Minors

S892 (Krueger) / A85 (Paulin)

While some "experts" report that this class of drugs does not cause an abortion as it attempts to prevent the conception, there is a risk that this class of drugs can prevent the conceived embryo from implanting in the uterine wall, thereby causing the earliest form of human life to be prevented from further development resulting in death. This bill promotes a lack of medical oversight. It includes a provision for the distribution of prescriptions which are non-patient specific. This is a back-door attempt to get around the provision requiring a healthcare provider to present information about the potential risks of Emergency Contraception and its side effects (including headaches, nausea, vomiting, dizziness and abdominal pain) which that prescription drug may have on the patient.

## 5. The Unborn Victims of Violence Act

S4347 (Ritchie) / A1673 (Cusick)

This bill amends several sections of the existing penal law, to provide protection for an unborn child at any stage of gestation. The bill would cover such crimes as assault, aggravated assault, or vehicular assault. Under the homicide statutes, it would add murder in the first degree, murder in the second degree, vehicular manslaughter in the first degree, and vehicular manslaughter in the second degree.

## 6. Authorizes Destruction of Human Embryos

S388 (Krueger) / A3218 (Sweeney)

The legislation enacts provisions relating to advanced written consent and directives concerning transfer, use, and disposition of cryopreserved embryos or gametes. Simply put, if a party fails to pay storage fees on their frozen embryos, those unborn offspring could be donated for medical research purposes or destroyed in some other fashion.

## 7. The Education Investment Incentives Act

S2732-A (Golden) / A5081-A (Cusick)

This bill would authorize a personal tax credit and a corporate tax credit up for contributions to public education entities, or to charitable organizations which offer tuition assistance, or up to \$75 for expenses incurred by school personnel and parents who educate their children at home.

## 8. Casino Gambling Expansion

S6734 (Bonacic) / A9556 (Pretlow)

This bill recently passed the State Legislature under pressure from Governor Cuomo in the middle of the night with no opportunity for public scrutiny. The legislation authorizes a constitutional amendment that would allow for seven Empire State casinos. The location of these casinos has not been either determined or disclosed.

## 9. Equal Access Rights for Houses of Worship

S6087-A (Golden) / A8800-A (Castro)

Authorizes the use of school buildings and school sites for religious meetings and worship when not in use for school purposes

## 10. Sunshine in State Government

Far too often in legislative matters, New Yorkers are subject to deals brokered by three men in a room, rather than a clear deliberative and public process. Despite promises from Governor Cuomo and the State Legislature of a new day in Albany, New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedoms is seeing a regression of "old Albany" rearing its ugly head. Transparency in government must become a legislative and public priority.