

# The Association of Politically Active Christians

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## **2010 MEMORANDUM OF OPPOSITION S.5808 (REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ACT) Contact: Stephen P. Hayford (518-364-5324)**

APAC opposes the misleadingly-named Reproductive Health Act, which—contrary to its title and stated purpose—would actually damage women’s health rather than enhancing it.

If passed, the RHA would:

- allow abortions to be performed by non-physicians;
- allow late-term abortions to be performed in outpatient clinics;
- endanger the religious freedoms and conscience protections accorded to pro-life hospitals, medical personnel, and pharmacists; and
- allow minors to obtain and use the dangerous abortifacient known as the “morning-after” pill.

Our reasons for opposing this bill include the following:

- **A vote for the RHA is a vote against women’s health.** By allowing non-physicians to perform abortions on women in New York, the RHA would jeopardize women’s health and safety. As might be expected, women are more likely to experience certain types of medical problems after having abortions if their abortions are not performed by physicians. Also, permitting late-term abortions to be performed in outpatient clinics would similarly place women’s health in jeopardy. Outpatient clinics are not equipped to care for women who experience complications following late-term abortions, or for children that may be born alive following late-term abortions.
- **A vote for the RHA is a vote against faith-based hospitals.** It would be unconscionable for the State of New York to require individuals or hospitals to counsel women regarding abortion, provide women with abortifacient medication, or refer women for abortions if doing so would violate their religious tenets; however, the RHA would require all three of these actions.
- **A vote for the RHA is a vote to increase the number of abortions.** The RHA is a bailout for the abortion industry. At this time, approximately 120,000 abortions per year are performed in New York. This total represents more than 10% of the abortions that occur in the United States. Allowing non-physicians to perform abortions, together with allowing late-term abortions in outpatient clinics, would open the door for many more people in many more places to perform abortions in New York. This would be a financial windfall for Planned Parenthood and similar organizations. The last thing New York needs is more abortions.

In the strongest possible terms, APAC urges Members of the New York State Legislature to vote against this dangerous, anti-woman, anti-freedom, anti-life piece of legislation.