

Action Plan

Ready to speak up in support of New York State's Reproductive Health Act? Here's how to make it happen.

1

Educate yourself.

If Roe v. Wade gets overturned, the ability for a woman to access a safe and legal abortion gets sent back to the states. The problem is that the current law legalizing abortion in New York is from 1970—which means that we would return to a pre-Roe v. Wade set of rules.

The Reproductive Health Act would, among other things, codify in New York State the protections currently recognized by the US Supreme Court, treat abortion as health care (instead of as a criminal act), protect health care providers who perform these vital services, and enshrine the constitutional standard that women can access abortion care throughout pregnancy when her health or life is at risk or the fetus is not viable. Ultimately, it affirms that it's a fundamental right for a woman to have control over her own body in New York State.

► Three parts of the current 1970 New York law that might shock you:

- There's no exception for the health of the mother
- Abortion is regulated under the penal code rather than the public health law—thereby criminalizing the procedure.
- Advanced Practice Clinicians like nurse practitioners and physician assistants would not be allowed to perform abortions.

2

Choose your target.

Find your New York State Senator at www.nysenate.gov/find-my-senator

Or focus on one of the State Senators who Rally+Rise has identified as crucial in the fight to pass the Reproductive Health Act (see our accompanying Rally+Rise Target List).

3

Pick your approach.

► Write a letter to a legislator

- Download and print your own Rally+Rise-designed postcards at www.rallyandrise.org/action

- Write a personalized note. Some prompts:

- "I care because...."
- "I'm worried that...."
- "This is important to me because..."

► Call a legislator

- Be friendly but direct and to the point with the staffer who answers the phone. And most importantly, make it personal!

- If you're a constituent:

"Hello, my name is X. I'm a constituent from Y NEIGHBORHOOD, zip code Z. I support the Reproductive Health Act and strongly encourage the Senator to vote yes to ensure that New Yorker's reproductive and health care rights are protected. I care because/I'm worried that/This is important to me because.... Thank you for your time."

- If you're not a constituent:

"Hello, my name is X. I'm a New Yorker who supports the Reproductive Health Act and strongly encourage the Senator to vote yes to ensure that New Yorker's reproductive and health care rights are protected. I care because/I'm worried that/This is important to me because.... Thank you for your time."

► Meet a legislator

- Join Rally+Rise at our scheduled group meetings with State Senators at their New York City district offices—email rallyandrise@gmail.com for more info.

- Prefer to fly solo? You can contact your Senator's office directly to request an appointment (ask for the contact info of the scheduler), or attend a town hall to bring up the Reproductive Health Act there.

- When meeting in-person, make a clear ask ("Can we count on the Senator's support of the Reproductive Health Act?"), listen carefully and try to keep the conversation on-topic, don't argue (if they're opposed to the bill, find out what their issues are so you can provide additional information), leave something behind (information, stats, or a local event you'd like to invite them to attend), be gracious (yes, that includes to all staffers), and follow-up with a thank-you note that summarizes your understanding of what the Senator agreed to do.

4

Show and tell.

- Pics or it didn't happen, right? Share photos of your postcard-writing by tagging [@rallyandrise](https://twitter.com/rallyandrise) and [#rallyandrise](https://twitter.com/rallyandrise)

- And make sure you email us your stats—how many postcards you've filled out and sent, so that we can keep track of just how much we've accomplished.

5

Party on.

- Got the hang of this advocacy thing? Spread the love—invite your friends over for a letter-writing party where you educate them on the Reproductive Health Act and talk up just how easy it is to lobby on behalf of the issues that are most important to you.

- Download postcards to print at www.rallyandrise.org/action

- And of course, let us know if you've got something planned—email at rallyandrise@gmail.com.

More Info: rallyandrise.org

Contact: info@rallyandrise.org

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Target List

1

Senate Majority Leader John J. Flanagan

► He decides which bills get a floor vote— so we are urging him to allow the democratic process to take place by permitting the Reproductive Health Act to move forward for a vote.

John J. Flanagan
260 Middle Country Rd.
Suite 102
Smithtown, NY 11787
(631) 361-2154

2

Senator Jeff Klein

► As the head of the IDC and Senate Coalition Leader, he technically also has a say over which bills get a floor vote— so we're urging him to make good on his promise that the IDC would get progressive legislation passed by bringing the Reproductive Health Act to the floor for a vote.

Jeff Klein
1250 Waters Place,
Suite 1202
Bronx, NY 10461
(718) 822-2049

3

Governor Andrew Cuomo

► The Governor is able to influence Senators on legislation he believes strongly in (hey, we'll take back-room deals if it means protections for New Yorkers)—we want to urge him to come out in support of the Reproductive Health Act and use his power as governor to get this bill to the floor of the State Senate.

Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of
New York State
NYS State
Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224
(518) 474-8390

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Members of the IDC

► Although they were elected as Democrats, these Senators defected to join the Independent Democratic Conference—meaning they now caucus with Republicans rather than Democrats, thereby giving the Republicans majority control of the State Senate. The IDC

promised that by doing so they'd be able to push through progressive legislation; it's time for them to make good on their promise, so we're urging them to pressure IDC leader Senator Klein to bring the RHA to the floor for a vote.

Senator Alcantara
5030 Broadway,
Suite 701 & 702
New York, NY 10034
(212) 544-0173

Senator Avella
38-50 Bell Blvd.,
Suite C
Bayside, NY 11361
(718) 357-3094

Senator Carlucci
20 South Main St.
New City, NY 10956
(845) 623-3627

Senator Hamilton
1669 Bedford Ave,
2nd Floor & Mezzanine
Brooklyn, NY 11225
(718) 284-4700

Senator Peralta
32-37 Junction Blvd.
East Elmhurst, NY 11369
(718) 205-3881

Senator Savino
36 Richmond Terrace,
Suite 112
Staten Island, NY 10301
(718) 727-9406

Senator Valesky
333 East Washington St.
805 State Office Building
Syracuse, NY 13202
(315) 478-8745

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Potential Swing Voters

► In order to pass the State Senate, the Reproductive Health Act needs Republicans to cross party lines and vote "yes"—these are the Republicans who we are targeting. We want to urge them to support the bill by reminding them that this law protects the health and life of the mother.

Senator Addabbo
159-53 102nd St.
Howard Beach, NY 11414
(718) 738-1111

Senator Bonacic
201 Dolson Ave., Suite F
Middletown, NY 10940
(845) 344-3311

Senator Boyle
69 W. Main St., Suite B
Bay Shore, NY 11706
(631) 665-2311

Senator Brooks
5550 Merrick Rd.,
Suite 205
Massapequa, NY 11758
(516) 882-0630

Senator DeFrancisco
333 East Washington St.
800 State Office Building
Syracuse, NY 13202
(315) 428-7632

Senator Funke
230 Packett's Landing
Fairport, NY 14450
(585) 223-1800

Senator Hannon
595 Stewart Ave.,
Suite 540
Garden City, NY 11530
(516) 739-1700

Senator Jacobs
65 Court St.
(Mahoney State Office
Building), Rm. 213
Buffalo, NY 14202
(716) 854-8705

Senator Little
5 Warren St., Suite 3
Glens Falls, NY 12801
(518) 743-0968

Senator Phillips
252 Mineola Blvd.
Mineola, NY 11501-2421
516-746-5924

Senator Ranzenhofer
8203 Main St., Suite 4
Williamsville, NY 14221
(716) 631-8695

Senator Serino
4254 Albany Post Rd.
Hyde Park, NY 12538
(845) 229-0106

Senator Seward
41 South Main St.
Oneonta, NY 13820
(607) 432-5524

More Info:
rallyandrise.org

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info@rallyandrise.org

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