

North Carolina NOW

Post Office Box 24995 • Raleigh • North Carolina • 27611 • Telephone • (919) 834-4073

December 2011

Dear Friend:

The Republican majority in the General Assembly has launched an all-out war on women's reproductive rights—and defenders of women's rights are fighting back on all fronts. The 2011 legislative session produced an unprecedented number of anti-woman measures that, in turn, have produced an unprecedented number of lawsuits to reverse the unconstitutional and illegal measures adopted by the legislature.

Anti-abortion legislators freely acknowledged their ideological agenda during floor debate of several bills. A sponsor of a bill entitled "Unborn Victims of Violence" acknowledged that the purpose of this bill was to recognize the "unborn child" as a person under North Carolina law—the principle that was voted down last month in a referendum in the state of Mississippi. Legislators included a "Choose Life" license plate in an omnibus license plate bill and voted down amendments to add a pro-choice plate. Their actions allow state license plates to express one political opinion while explicitly forbidding another opinion to appear. The Attorney General's office has agreed to a temporary restraining order to prevent production of the "Choose Life" license plate pending court action.

Targeting the young, the poor and state workers, the state budget contains provisions to **abolish the state abortion fund** for indigent women; to **restrict abortion coverage in the state health insurance plan** to rape, incest, and life endangerment; and to **defund Planned Parenthood** programs, including the Women's Health Services Fund, Teen Pregnancy Prevention, and Adolescent Parenting Programs. Governor Perdue vetoed the budget containing these anti-woman provisions, but her veto was overridden. Planned Parenthood of Central North Carolina has obtained an injunction that allows their funding to continue until the case can be resolved in the courts.

The misnamed "Woman's Right to Know" act is an unabashed attempt by anti-abortion forces to enlist the state as their ally. This law mandates a woman seeking an abortion must be shown an ultrasound image 4 to 72 hours before the procedure and is forced to listen to a detailed description of the fetus. A state-approved description designed to dissuade her from having the procedure must be read to her. There are no exceptions, not even for rape or incest. The doctor is required to read the biased script even if she thinks doing so is not in **the** patient's best interest. A judge has granted a temporary injunction against the mandatory ultrasound, the description, and the four-hour delay contained in the "Woman's Right to Know" act.

Now is the time to take a stand and publicly support women's reproductive rights. NC NOW is sponsoring a prochoice signature ad supporting women's reproductive rights to mark the anniversary of the landmark Roe v. Wade decision. The two-page ad will run in the centerfold of the 1/18/12 edition of the *Independent*, a weekly newspaper serving the Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill area. As in previous years the exact text of the ad will read:

"We, the undersigned, support women's right to safe, legal and accessible birth control and abortion. We condemn acts of violence and intimidation directed at women and their health care providers. We agree that these rights extend to all women regardless of economic status and, as taxpayers, affirm our support of the State Abortion Fund for indigent women."

Copies of the ad will be distributed to all members of the NC General Assembly shortly after the legislative session begins in May.

I want to thank all of you who have faithfully subscribed to our pro-choice ad in past years. If you have never subscribed before, there is no better time than this year to begin. Please fill out and return the form on the back of this letter along with your contribution today. If you do not want your name to appear in the ad, indicate your wish on the form. Please be as generous as you can. We deeply appreciate your support.

For NC NOW,



Gailya Paliga
President

North Carolina NOW

(N. C. National Organization for Women)

P.O. Box 24995

Raleigh, NC 27611

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
Raleigh
North Carolina
Permit No. 2425

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Resist the hard right--
Sign up today!**

SIGN UP FOR CHOICE!

*"We the undersigned, support a woman's right to safe, legal, and accessible birth control and abortion.
We condemn the acts of violence and intimidation directed at women and their health care providers.
We agree that these rights extend to all women regardless of economic status, and,
as taxpayers, affirm our support of the State Abortion Fund for indigent women."*

- YES, I want my name in the ad (print name below as it should appear).
 NO, I don't want my name to appear, but I want to help.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

DAY PHONE: _____ EVENING PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Enclosed is my donation for the Pro-Choice Signature Ad:

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$35 \$25 \$10 Other: _____

Enclosed is an additional donation to support the NC Women's Lobby:

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$35 \$25 \$10 Other: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Visa Account Number: _____

MasterCard Expiration Date: _____ Signature: _____

Make check payable to NC NOW and mail to: Raleigh NOW, P.O. Box 25331, Raleigh, NC 27611

Mail by January 9, 2012, to insure that your name is printed in the ad.

Contributions to NC NOW are not tax deductible because we take action to promote social change.