

MASSACHUSETTS CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

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INFORMATION AND NEWS RELEASE

RELEASE DATE
MAY 8, 1993

STATEMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS BISHOPS ON REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE (HOUSE 3239)

On Monday May 10, the Massachusetts House of Representatives will vote on a bill entitled, "An Act Relative to Reproductive Choice" (House 3239)

This euphemism, "reproductive choice," gives the false impression that the proposal is basically a protection of the freedom of choice women already have in choosing to abort their unborn children. In fact, this bill is the most extreme pro-abortion bill ever presented to the Massachusetts legislature.

If passed this extremist bill would:

- allow abortions in the first six months of pregnancy without any limitations whatever;
- allow abortions in the first six months to be performed by anyone; no physician is required;
- allow abortions to take place in any setting; hospital facilities are no longer needed;

As the bill is written, it would allow abortions through the final three months of pregnancy for any reason that can be labeled "the health of the mother"; no limitation on the meaning of "the health of the mother" is determined.

As the bill is written, it would eliminate even the most minimal attempts to inform women about their choices.

Parental consent for minors is precluded. Information about the unborn child is not provided the mother. Abortion for sex selection is allowed.

As the bill is written, the conscience of an individual or an institution opposed to abortion would no longer be protected. Abortion would reign supreme as the mandated policy of this Commonwealth regardless of anyone's personal conscientious position.

What this bill represents is the triumph of abortionism, the ideology that says the only acceptable approach to a crisis pregnancy is to destroy human life in the womb. In this view, the unborn child is only disposable tissue. True concern for both the mother and child is dismissed. The ideology of abortion seeks to be so enshrined in the Commonwealth that true choice is no longer allowed. This proposed legislation is anti-woman. It is anti-child. It is anti-family.

We urge every citizen to oppose this legislation and to ask their state representatives to vote NO to House 3239, the "Reproductive Choice Act".

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