

PROChoice

WCLA-PAC, ProChoice Voter



**Use the right to vote to
protect the right to choose**

2006 VOTING GUIDE VOTE Tuesday, NOV. 7, 2006

- ☞ Tear off this yellow Voting Guide.
- ☞ Save it until Election Day.
- ☞ Make copies for your friends.
- ☞ Carry it openly into the voting booth.

**Our endorsed candidates are listed in
BLUE BOXES
VOTE ONLY FOR THEM**

FREEDOM OF CHOICE – VOTE FOR IT!

Please copy and distribute this page to other pro-choice Westchester County Voters.

2006 **PROChoice** Voting Guide

WCLA-PAC and ProChoice Voter.

Our endorsed candidates are highlighted in boxes.
Help keep abortion legal and accessible.
Vote for endorsed candidates.

WCLA—Choice Matters Endorsement Policy, 2006

WCLA - Choice Matters' endorsements are made by its Board of Directors.

WCLA - Choice Matters' endorsements are determined case by case. To be considered for endorsement, candidates must complete and return WCLA - Choice Matters' questionnaire and participate in an interview if requested. Incumbents may be endorsed over pro-choice challengers if they have consistent voting records and have established a reputation for strong leadership and extra effort in advancing access to abortion and contraception. Non-incumbents may be endorsed if they have demonstrated leadership in the community on the issue.

Endorsement is considered only for those who unequivocally support:

- access to abortion and contraception for all women, unimpeded by laws, restrictions, or regulation;
- strict confidentiality for all reproductive health care;
- coverage by public and private insurance of abortion and contraception.

Judicial candidates: To be eligible for endorsement, judicial candidates must participate in an interview if requested by WCLA - Choice Matters, and neither seek nor accept the Right to Life Party nomination.

GOVERNOR/LT. GOVERNOR

John J. Faso[†]/C. Scott Vanderhoef (R,C)

ELIOT SPITZER/DAVID A. PATERSON (D,I,W)

Malachy McCourt/Alison Duncan[‡] (GRE)

John Clifton/Donald Silberger[‡] (LBT)

Maura DeLuca/Ben O'Shaughnessy[‡] (SWP)

Jimmy McMillian[‡] (RTH)

COMPTROLLER

J. Christopher Callaghan (R,C)

ALAN G. HEVESI* (D,I,W)

Julia Willebrand[‡] (GRE)

JOHN J. CAIN (LBT)

Willie Cotton[‡] (SWP)

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Jeanine Pirro (R,C,I)

ANDREW M. CUOMO (D,W)

Rachel Treichler[‡] (GRE)

Christopher B. Garvey (LBT)

Martin Koppel[‡] (SWP)

U.S. SENATOR

John Spencer[‡] (R,C)

HILARY RODHAM CLINTON* (D,I,W)

HOWIE HAWKINS (GRE)

William Van Auken[‡] (SEP)

Jeffrey T. Russell[‡] (LBT)

Roger Calero[‡] (SWP)

NYS SUPREME COURT JUDGE

(Vote for two)

RORY BELLANTONI (R,C,W)

Joseph Cerreto[‡] (R)

ALAN D. SCHEINKMAN (D,C,I)

SAM D. WALKER (D,I,W)

COUNTY COURT

(Vote for one)

Charles F. Devlin (R,C)

JEFFREY A. COHEN (D,I,W)

Raymond W. Belair (RTL)

Key to ratings:

ENDORSED

PRO-CHOICE, NOT ENDORSED

Anti-choice

* Incumbent

‡ Not able to contact

‡ Former RTL

FAMILY COURT

(Vote for one)

PETER C. KUPER (R)

SANDRA B. EDLITZ (D,C,I,W)

Anthony J. De Cintio Jr. (RTL)

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

● District 17

Mt. Vernon, parts of Greenburgh, Yonkers and the Bronx; Rockland County: Orangetown, Ramapo and part of Clarkstown

Jim Faulkner (R,C,I)

ELIOT L. ENGEL* (D,W)

● District 18

Westchester County: Pelham, Eastchester, New Rochelle, Mamaroneck, Rye (town & city), Harrison, Scarsdale, White Plains, Mt. Pleasant, No. Castle, Ossining, New Castle, and parts of Greenburgh and Yonkers; Rockland County: parts of Haverstraw and Clarkstown

Richard Hoffman (R,C)

NITA LOWEY* (D,W)

● District 19

Westchester County: Peekskill, Yorktown, Cortlandt, Somers, No. Salem, Bedford, Pound Ridge, Lewisboro, and Mt. Kisco; Putnam County: parts of Orange, Dutchess, and Rockland counties

Sue Kelly* (R,C,I)

JOHN HALL (D)

NEW YORK STATE SENATE

● District 34

Eastchester, parts of Mt. Vernon, Yonkers, Pelham, New Rochelle, and the Bronx

Joseph J. Savino (R,C,I)

JEFFREY KLEIN* (D,W)

● District 35

Towns of Greenburgh and Mt. Pleasant, most of Yonkers

NICK SPANO* (R,C,I)

ANDREA STEWART-COUSINS (D)

● District 36

Parts of Mt. Vernon and the Bronx

Curtis Brooks (R,C)

RUTH HASSEL-THOMPSON* (D,W)

● District 37

Harrison, Mamaroneck, New Castle, No. Castle, Ossining, Rye Town, Scarsdale, parts of New Rochelle, Rye, and White Plains

SUZI OPPENHEIMER* (D,W)

● District 40

Northern Westchester, Putnam County, part of Dutchess County

Vincent Leibell, III* (R,C,I)

MICHAEL KAPLOWITZ (D,W)

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

● District 87

Mt. Vernon, part of Yonkers

Barbara Snyder (R,C)

J. GARY PRETLOW* (D,I)

● District 88

Eastchester, Pelham, Scarsdale, part of White Plains and New Rochelle

Jim Coleman (R)

AMY R. PAULIN* (D,I,W)

● District 89

Northeastern Westchester, Harrison, most of White Plains

ADAM BRADLEY* (D,I,W)

● District 90

Cortlandt, Ossining, Peekskill, Kent, Phillipstown, Putnam Valley

SANDRA GALEF* (D, I, W)

● District 91

Mamaroneck, Rye Town, Rye, part of New Rochelle

GEORGE LATIMER* (D, I, W)

● District 92

Greenburgh, Mt. Pleasant, part of Yonkers

RICHARD BRODSKY* (D,I,W)

GERARD GERSHONOWITZ (C)

● District 93

Most of Yonkers

MIKE SPANO (R,C,I)

SHELLEY B. MAYER (D,W)

● District 99

Yorktown, No. Salem, Somers, part of Dutchess and Putnam

Greg Ball (R,C,I)

KENNETH P. HARPER (D,W)

Parties: R: Republican D: Democrat I: Independence C: Conservative W: Working Families GRE: Green SEP: Socialist Equality LBT: Libertarian SWP: Socialist Workers RTH: Rent Is Too High RTL: Right to Life

2006 Can be a Sweep for Choice

This could be the year, in New York State, that pro-choice voters elect women's reproductive rights advocates to all of the highest offices: US Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, Congressman Eliot Engel, Congressman John Hall, Congresswoman Nita Lowey, Governor Eliot Spitzer, Lieutenant Governor David Paterson, Comptroller Alan Hevesi, and Attorney General Andrew Cuomo. In each electoral district there are also outspoken advocates of women's reproductive rights running for the state Senate and Assembly.

But we also have some of the worst anti-choice zealots targeting New York—and our rights!

National Extremists Here at Home

This year's election in New York State reflects the stark contrast playing out on the national stage, between those who believe in the right to choose and respect women as capable

See Sweep on page 6



PROChoice

Newsletter of

WCLA -Choice Matters, Inc.,
WCLA-PAC, ProChoice Voter

Vol. 35, No. 1 Autumn, 2006

Clinton: A Perfect Record!



Women in New York are very fortunate to have Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton representing them in Congress. Clinton is 100% pro-choice and has a perfect voting record to prove it! She has been rated 100% by NARAL, Planned Parenthood, and the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association, which means that the Senator has consistently voted the pro-reproductive

rights position. The National Right to Life Committee confirmed this fact when they accorded Senator Clinton a 0% rating.

Over the past two years, the media has focused on the Senator's remarks concerning different aspects of reproductive rights. Whether from the right or the left, the apparent intent of the media coverage was to imply that the Sena-

See Clinton on page 4



Andrew Cuomo: A Must Win for Choice

Andrew Cuomo won the three-way Democratic primary to challenge Jeanine Pirro and has earned Choice Matters' endorsement. The differences between Cuomo and his opponent are very clear. Cuomo promises to support and enforce laws

that protect the right to choose and to prosecute extremists who attempt to interfere unlawfully with that right.

Cuomo is also ready to take the reins from Eliot Spitzer in his advocacy for women's rights. He has pledged to maintain Spitzer's Reproductive Rights Unit, which was the first of its kind in the nation. The unit's mission is to enforce existing clinic access laws and ensure that women have access to reproductive services.

See Cuomo on page 4



Spitzer/Paterson Pro-Choice

The New York election for governor and lieutenant governor presents an absolutely clear choice for pro-choice voters. Spitzer and Paterson know the issues, and have always

been and will continue to be strong proponents of reproductive freedom.

A Man Of His Word

Eliot Spitzer has been a stellar attorney general for choice. In 1998, he defeated then-incumbent anti-choice Dennis Vacco with the strong support of abortion rights groups. (WCLA-PAC made 86,000 get-out-the-vote calls for him.) Spitzer promised to support and enforce laws that protect a woman's right to choose, and to prosecute extremists who attempt to unlawfully interfere with that right—and he has stood by that pledge 100%!

See Spitzer on page 4

Are We In It To Win It?

by Catherine Lederer-Plaskett
President/Chair of the Board

What mother hasn't said, "I'll always be here for you" when her child was frightened? What mother hasn't wished fervently, "Let it be me" when her child was in danger or in pain? Why, then, is a woman considered less compassionate when she says, "I won't be able to be here for you and care for you," and, therefore, terminates the pregnancy? Why is the woman who worries about the life of the fetus after birth—and not solely about the time spent in the womb—regarded as selfish rather than caring?

The sole mission of all anti-choice groups is to make abortion illegal. To distract from that purpose and to posit a higher goal, they focus the public's attention on the 40 weeks of pregnancy. They glorify the pregnant woman while vilifying the one who terminates her pregnancy. One is a saint, the other immoral and self-indulgent. None of these groups focus on the life post birth canal, when the fetus has left the woman's body and becomes a child.

Feminists for Life (FFL), whose pro bono legal adviser, former officer and large contributor is Supreme Court Chief Justice Roberts' wife Jane Roberts, is a good example. FFL talks a good game about a woman's right to work and to education. They claim one of their



goals is to help pregnant university students who have chosen not to have an abortion. In reality, though, FFL is committed, first and foremost, to criminalizing all abortions, including those for rape, incest, health, and major fetal defects and to penalizing doctors who perform them. They ignore birth control except to say it does not work and that emergency contraception can cause an abortion. Despite claims of no religious affiliation, their post-abortion links are all to Christian organizations. Their prenatal counseling includes going on food stamps and on welfare. When it comes to the post-birth period, FFL's attention and concern is de minimis. Their great advice for those with unwanted pregnancies is ignore the foster care and adoption statistics, birth the child, put it up for adoption, and walk away. They basically ignore the demands, costs, and challenges of the next 18 years, at a minimum, of parenting responsibilities.

Given the above, why are anti-choice groups like FFL that show no regard for children—who turn a blind eye to cuts in funding for all sorts of child-oriented health and education programs—allowed to frame the issue?

Winning the War, Not Just the Battle

In every war, especially after suffering serious setbacks, it is essential to evaluate one's own strategies. Without a critical assessment of one's own tactics, victory will always remain elusive. Worse yet, the constant re-implementation of failed approaches will likely lead to the loss of the few remaining rights hard won in past battles.

This is the situation in which the pro-choice movement finds itself today. Old strategies don't work. The fight for reproductive rights is not the same battle today that it was 40 years ago. The anti-choice movement, made up of groups like FFL, has successfully changed the debate. They have re-directed it in twenty different directions—so-called partial birth, crossing state lines, parental notification/consent, "choose life" license plates, and more, and have hit people in the most sensational emotional ways possible. The pro-choice community has responded not by leading the debate, but by reacting.

Regardless of the angle of attack, the reproductive rights community's response has been consistent. It has taken the intellectual approach, the one defensible in the courts, and definitely the less subjective, emotional one. Our community has responded by stating that abortion is protected by the US Constitution; the

Westchester Coalition for Legal Abortion

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235 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains, NY 10605

914/946-5363 • www.choicematters.org

President: Catherine Lederer-Plaskett

Data Maintenance: Leonore Young

Board of Directors: Catherine Lederer-Plaskett, Chair; Tamika Coverdale, Robert Fertik, M. Brigid Lang, Janey Lee, Joseph Melhado

Editor: Catherine Lederer-Plaskett

Contributors: M. Brigid Lang, Janey Lee, Judi Lerman, Rachelle Richard,

Sandy Spivak, Debbie Tarlow, Diane Torstrup, Deena Weintraub

Translators: Cross-Cultural Consultants, P.C.

WCLA-PAC

235 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains, NY 10605

Treasurer: Deborah Tarlow

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See Win on page 13

What's In An Endorsement?

WCLA – Choice Matters (“Choice Matters”) is a non-partisan abortion rights organization. As an institution, we do not look at other issues, and on that singular focus hinges our political success and credibility.

Choice Matters’ policy is and has always been: “...Incumbents shall be endorsed over pro-choice challengers if they have consistent voting records and have established a reputation for strong leadership and extra effort in advancing access to abortion and contraception...”

The essence of issue-based politics is rewarding those individuals who have made an outstanding effort on behalf of the cause, who consider the particular issue to be a fundamental and primary concern, and whose election will

Our Name —WCLA-Choice Matters
Avoiding Confusion
You may notice that we refer to WCLA-Choice Matters as Choice Matters in this newsletter. In 2005, WCLA changed its name to WCLA-Choice Matters to reflect the issue of reproductive rights as it is today and to broaden our geographic reach. We use the shortened name in the newsletter to emphasize that, in these times when reproductive rights are gravely threatened, choice indeed does matter.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆ Election '06 ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Pirro: NOT Pro-Choice, Not Now, Not Then

The last thing we need is to elect someone that we know says things only to garner votes. Jeanine Pirro is just that type of candidate. She uses the term “pro-choice” as a marketing tool to be employed depending upon with whom she is speaking. When running for Westchester D.A., she touted past endorsements by pro-choice organizations. But, now when campaigning for statewide office, she has changed her tune. As Robert Jaffe of NARAL Pro-Choice New York said, “Jeanine Pirro is running away from her past in order to garner the support of Mike Long and the Conservative Party...”

As a result of her initial decision to challenge Senator Clinton, Choice Matters’ refusal to endorse Pirro for Westchester D.A. in 2001 has received particular attention. The New York Times asked why we were refusing to endorse her, after having done so in two previous elections.

Simple: Jeanine Pirro lost Choice Matters’ support after submitting a questionnaire with significant omissions and responses contrary to Choice Matters’ pro-choice position. For example, she wrote, “I don’t know” next to questions about so-called partial birth abortion, skipped questions about her position on cloning to generate embryonic stem cells for research, and did not oppose the merger of non-sectarian

best serve the advancement of the cause.

The Process

Choice Matters’ annual process of making candidate endorsements is deliberate and arduous.

With the exception of judicial candidates and those candidates who in the past were endorsed by the Right to Life Party or who otherwise are known to be unreceptive to abortion rights, Choice Matters mails each candidate a detailed questionnaire seeking his/her public position on reproductive rights and timely delivery of reproductive health services.

The questionnaire is redrawn each year, as old issues disappear and new ones emerge.

Each questionnaire is reviewed as it is returned. If the questionnaire reveals inconsistencies in a generally pro-choice set of responses, the candidate is phoned to explain the intent of the question and discuss the issue. Candidates are permitted to change an answer if they so wish.

All endorsements are made on a strictly non-partisan basis. Choice Matters’ Board of Directors reviews the questionnaires and discusses incumbents’ records, leadership, and helpfulness during the legislative session. The Board also reviews the opponents’ records. Board members seek consistency between candidates’ actions and questionnaire responses. Attention is given to possible attempts to mislead the voter. Each race is voted separately. This process can take hours, with most of the time spent on a few races.

and religious facilities which would result in the elimination of reproductive health services.

In a follow-up phone call that we had hoped would result in a discussion of the questionnaire and of choice, Pirro demonstrated a surprising lack of knowledge and no interest in learning more about the issues.

The 2005 New York Times inquiry clearly showed that Pirro was misleading people on her position on choice. On the same day that Pirro answered Choice Matters’ questionnaire one way, she responded to NARAL’s differently. Pirro told NARAL she opposed a ban on so-called partial birth abortion and that she supported the procedure to protect the life or health of the woman. She told Choice Matters “I don’t know” to similar questions; and when asked by The New York Times to clarify her stand, Pirro declared she opposed the procedure except in cases where it was necessary to protect the life of the pregnant woman. (The ol’flip-flop!)

Pirro calls herself pro-choice but her words show that she believes in an ever-increasing number of restrictions on women’s reproductive rights. The health and safety of the women of New York State cannot afford Pirro—now a candidate for NYS Attorney General.

Cuomo from page 1

Cuomo's previous experience provides him with the foundation for a solid understanding of the need for the full range of women's reproductive rights. As an Assistant District Attorney in Manhattan and founder of HELP, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping the homeless, Cuomo has firsthand knowledge of how very important it is for a woman to control her own body. His tenure as Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and his involvement as a senior official in the Clinton White House only serve to reinforce his commitment to choice for all women.

In contrast, his opponent Jeanine Pirro has said publicly that she supports restrictions on reproductive rights. Cuomo is Choice Matters' candidate for Attorney General.

Spitzer from page 1

Shortly after taking office, Spitzer created the Reproductive Rights Unit—the first of its kind in the nation. Whether investigating the business practices of Crisis Pregnancy Centers, enforcing laws that prohibit demonstrators from blocking access to clinics, or filing a brief urging the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold the Violence Against Women's Act, Eliot Spitzer has shown a great understanding of and an unwavering commitment to the many issues confronting a woman's right to choose.

Standing Up For Choice

State Senate Minority Leader David A. Paterson has made a career of breaking down barriers, demanding change, and passing legislation on behalf of ALL New Yorkers. Over his 21 years in the Senate, he has fought for legislation to crack down on hate crimes, domestic violence and child sexual abuse. He has taken a leadership role by championing pro-choice legislation.

Right to Life Party Weighs In

In contrast, gubernatorial candidate John Faso's voting record is that of an anti-choice extremist. Until June 2001, Faso (R, 102 AD) had a perfect voting record in the eyes of the NYS Right to Life Party. Renowned for calling Roe v. Wade "a black mark upon this country," Faso's extreme anti-choice record includes voting against the Women's Health and Wellness bill that, among other things, mandated coverage of FDA-approved contraceptive drugs and devices in employee health plans that cover other prescription drugs.

Faso's running mate, C. Scott Vanderhoef, has not returned Choice Matters' questionnaire this year or in the past. He also does not return phone calls or emails. To all those who remember Pataki's veto of The Unintended Pregnancy Prevention Act, Vanderhoef's remark that abortion is "...really not relevant" as a campaign issue, says it all!

We, the NY pro-choice community, look forward to working with Governor Eliot Spitzer and Lieutenant Governor David Paterson!

Clinton from page 1

tor was changing her position on choice. Nothing could be farther from the truth!

Senator Clinton has focused her attention on the full spectrum of reproductive rights. While unwavering in her commitment to keep abortion legal, she has turned her attention to contraception. She reintroduced the phrase "safe, legal and rare," because she believes, and studies have shown, that increased education and access to birth control lead to fewer unwanted pregnancies. Senator Clinton is a strong supporter of Title X, which is the only program devoted solely to making comprehensive family planning services available to anyone interested in seeking them. She voted yes to adopt an amendment to the Senate's 2006 Fiscal Year Budget that would allocate \$100 million to reduce teen pregnancy through education and contraception.

Clinton is also a supporter of Plan B, an emergency contraception that can protect against pregnancy if taken within 72 hours of unprotected sex. The FDA finally approved Plan B for over-the-counter availability in August, after dragging its feet for over three years. Senator Clinton, together with Senator Murray, D-Wash., deserves credit for that approval. They forced the FDA to stop playing politics with women's health by placing a hold on von Eschenbach's nomination to head the FDA until the agency rendered a decision.

These are NOT the actions of a person shying away from the issue. Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton is a committed pro-choice leader in the fight to protect women's reproductive rights.

In dramatic contrast, Senator Clinton's opponent, John Spencer, is an anti-choice zealot who has once again been endorsed by the NYS Right-to-Life Committee. According to his own web site, he is committed to "overturning Roe v. Wade and sending the issue back to the states."

Paid for by ProChoice Voter

Coming to a Channel Near You
 Choice Matters is proud to announce the successful production and airing of New York State on Choice: Where We are Today, which has been airing on local cable channels throughout Westchester and part of Putnam. The focus of the program is pro-choice legislation in Albany. Guests Assemblywoman Amy Paulin and Senator Nick Spano spent a half hour with Choice Matters' president, Catherine Lederer-Plaskett, discussing proposed legislation, such as The Healthy Teens Act and the Unintended Pregnancy Prevention Act, as well as relatively newly passed legislation, including Emergency Contraception in the Emergency Room. Choice Matters looks forward to future productions which will focus on the changing world of choice, both on a local level and in Washington DC.

Protect Your Rights!

Amy Paulin: Advocate for the 88th and all of Westchester!



Amy Paulin is, without a doubt, one of the most able advocates for choice on the scene today. Her resume is chock full with professional positions that provide her with a depth of knowledge and experience that she brings to bear as an assemblywoman.

Paulin, a former board member of Choice Matters, resigned to run her first race for the Assembly six years ago. Her record shows that she advanced the interests of women and children as founding chair of the Westchester Women's Agenda, the county chair of the League of Women Voters, and Executive Director of My Sisters' Place. Alongside Choice Matters founder Polly Rothstein, she led the successful effort to get Westchester County to provide family planning coverage for county employees. She was also liaison to the New York State Choice Coalition for the League of Women Voters.

During her three terms in office, Paulin has taken a leadership role on many issues including choice and reproductive health. She helped pass the Women's Health and Wellness Bill. She fought against efforts to reduce Medicaid funding for family planning and parental consent laws that would inhibit teenagers from accessing reproductive health services. She opposed broad "conscience clauses" that would exempt employers, insurance companies, and HMOs from providing or covering reproductive health services. She co-sponsored a bill, EC in the ER, mandating that hospital emergency rooms offer emergency contraception to rape survivors. This year Paulin also co-sponsored The Healthy Teens Act.

Paulin has also taken the initiative by writing and sponsoring the Unintended Pregnancy Prevention Act, which would allow pharmacists to dispense emergency contraception without a personalized prescription from a doctor. This would provide a lifeline to domestic violence victims whose abusers often deny them access to doctors or traditional methods of birth control.

In contrast to Assemblywoman Paulin, her opponent, Jim Coleman, has no track record on choice at all. Despite reminder phone calls and letters, Coleman did not return his questionnaire. Coleman also rejected Choice Matters' offer to review the questionnaire with him and to discuss any points that he might wish clarified.

Choice Matters Backs Spano



Senator Nick Spano is a staunch ally of the pro-choice community. He has used his leadership status in the Republican majority to advocate for family planning and abortion rights. He is not just a pro-choice vote; he is the strongest senator to keep the pressure on the Republican leadership to mitigate its rigid anti-abortion position.

Sixteen years ago, in 1990, Senator Nick Spano declared himself to be 100% pro-choice, and he meant it! His record proves his commitment.

Spano was a sponsor of the Clinic Access and Anti-Stalking Act of 1999 – the first pro-choice bill passed by the Senate since legalization in 1970. Spano co-sponsored the Women's Health and Wellness bill (2002). He was the chief sponsor of a bill, EC in the ER, (2003) mandating that hospital emergency rooms offer emergency contraception to rape survivors. This year he sponsored the Unintended Pregnancy Prevention Act and The Healthy Teens Act.

Spano is a leader in the annual legislative struggle to replace the funds for family planning that Governor Pataki cut from the state budget, and he fights to increase the funds. He votes against attempts to cut off funds for Medicaid abortions, parental notification requirements, and the ban on so-called "partial birth abortions." Family Planning Advocates of NYS relies on him. Twice, in 1993 and 2000, FPA awarded him the prestigious Margaret Sanger award.

Issue Based Politics

The essence of issue politics is rewarding those who have made outstanding efforts for the cause, no matter who the challenger is. Senator Spano has proven himself an outstanding and forceful spokesperson for choice and is in a powerful position to continue to do so. This year, as in 2004, County Legislator Andrea Stewart Cousins is seeking to unseat Spano. We have supported her against challengers in her elections to the County Board of Legislators, but in Election 2006 she is the challenger. In keeping with our nonpartisanship and policy of supporting incumbents who play a leading role on reproductive rights issues, Choice Matters is endorsing Nick Spano for State Senate.

Vote

on Nov. 7!

Lest We Forget . . .

Excerpt from *The Worst of Times*, Chapter "Coroner Fred," by Patricia G. Miller, HarperCollins Books, 1993.

In the coroner's office, "the dead women we saw had either bled to death or they had died from overwhelming infections. Some had tears along the vaginal tract where they had used coat hangers to get up into the uterus and break things up—like rupture the amniotic sac.

Mostly, of course, I only saw the women after they were dead, but once I saw someone before she died. That was in the early sixties. It was a woman who worked in the hospital lab with me. She was a very nice person. I don't know anything about her personal situation or why she wanted an abortion, but she had one, and she bled and bled. I remember she called in sick and told us that she had a bad cold. Finally she did come to the hospital, but it was really too late. She died just a few hours after she came in.

Probably the death rate wouldn't have been so high if people had come to the hospital earlier, but the way it was, with the shame and the secrecy, they tended to stay at home as long as they could—sometimes too long, as it turned out."

"Most of the dead women I saw were in their teens or twenties."

"The deaths stopped overnight in 1973, and I never saw another abortion death in all the eighteen years after that until I retired. That ought to tell people something about keeping abortion legal."

Nightmares of Today

The limitations being placed on the ability of minors to independently seek an abortion or birth control, make the following excerpt far too commonplace; and if the so-called Child Custody Protection Act (aka Teen Abandonment Act) passed by the Senate on July 25th, should become law, stories like this may become the norm.

They Weep on My Doorstep, by Dr. Ruth Barnett as told to Doug Baker.

She was only 15, slightly-built, blue-eyed, blonde and innocent. She seemed numb as I had questioned her. She said she had been raped.

"My father. He was drunk."

"When?"

"Maybe seven months ago."

Examination corroborated her statement. She had been pregnant too long. When I said that an abortion would be impossible, she asked, almost tonelessly:

"What can I do?"

"Nothing," I said. "You'll have to have the child."

"My own father's baby?"

I could only nod. My throat was too choked for speech. She arose, went to the door, stood there a moment, turned toward me as though she were going to say something further. But she said nothing. She was weeping. She shook her head once and left.

The next morning the police fished her body from the Willa-

Sweep from page 1

responsible individuals, and those who live by the maxim "my way or...my way." In a dramatic attempt to turn back the clock to pre-1960s, extremists are not only methodically working to overturn Roe v. Wade; they are determined to severely limit, if not do away with, access to all birth control.

With the apparent blessing of the Bush Administration, the FDA placed politics before science, tying up approval of access to over-the-counter Plan B emergency contraception for more than three years. Eighteen states are considering legalizing a "conscience clause" for pharmacists that would allow them to withhold medications that conflict with their convictions, i.e. pharmacists would legally be permitted to refuse to fill birth control prescriptions regardless of how far away another pharmacy may be or how expensive the prescription may become. These same anti-choice congressional leaders who are striking out to stop a woman from controlling her own body are the same people who are simultaneously slashing funding for daycare for children of the working poor.

New York State's anti-choice candidates are clones of their Washington mentors: Senatorial challenger John Spencer, famous for his lobbying trips to Albany with the Right-to-Life Committee, believes that Roe should be overturned; Sue Kelly votes in lock-step with the anti-choice Bush White House while simultaneously chanting, "I'm pro-choice;" and gubernatorial hopeful John Faso, infamous for calling Roe v. Wade "a black mark upon this country," had a perfect voting record in the NYS Assembly in the eyes of the NYS Right to Life Committee. Flip-flopping Jeanine Pirro, whose position on a woman's right to control her own body is constantly in flux, believes in an ever-increasing number of restrictions on women's reproductive rights. Incumbent Vincent Leibell voted to make the performance of certain second-trimester abortions a Class E felony AND against an amendment to make exceptions to "avert serious health damage to the woman."

Who Decides: You Do

Given the tenor of the times, one might ask, "Are we in Oz?" Unfortunately, unlike the Wicked Witch of the West, these bad guys don't simply melt away with a strong dousing of water. It takes votes. This election will be determined by the voters. If pro-choice voters come out and vote, we will win; if we stay home... New Yorkers can make 2006 a banner year for choice. You decide.

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mette River. I remembered a poem I once memorized by Thomas Hood:

"One more unfortunate,/ Weary of breath,
Rashly importunate,/ Gone to her death!
Take her up tenderly,/Lift her with care;
Fashioned so slenderly,/ Young, and so fair!..."

How many such unfortunates, I wondered, could have been spared ignominy or death if they had been able to avail themselves, in time, of a safe abortion? I could only guess.

Re-Elect Engel and Lowey But Fire Kelly!

Westchester's House of Representatives Report Card on Choice:

- CD 17, Congressman Eliot Engel..... A+
- CD 18, Congresswoman Nita Lowey..... A+
- CD 19, Congresswoman Sue Kelly..... F

For 18 years, Eliot Engel and Nita Lowey have been giving their constituents phenomenal representation in Congress. Their pro-choice advocacy has not just protected the Bronx, Westchester and Rockland—they have been defending the rights of all women in this country.



Engel, who has been a reliable vote for choice since his days in the Assembly, co-sponsored the Prevention First Act, which expands access to birth control and family planning, and the Access to Legal Pharmaceuticals Act, which requires pharmacists to fill all legal, valid prescriptions. Most recently he fought successfully to get Wal-Mart to stock Plan B emergency contraception in all of their New York stores.

Lowey is the leading advocate of reproductive rights in Congress and the former Chair of the House Pro-Choice Caucus. She has demonstrated great stamina and commitment as she has argued against the myriad of anti-choice legislation coming before the House. She led the effort to save Title X family planning programs and defeated a parental notification requirement. She championed efforts to defeat provisions that would ban discussions of abortion over the internet, prevent abortions in military hospitals abroad, and slash international family planning.

Engel and Lowey have clearly earned Choice Matters' support! They both face anti-choice opponents.

Sue Kelly Has Got To Go!

Sue Kelly is anti-choice! She has been fooling people with empty words since first winning election in 1994. That year Kelly presented herself as 100% pro-choice and successfully enlisted Choice Matters to defeat six anti-choice men in the Republican primary. She then unexpectedly signed Newt Gingrich's Contract with America and lost Choice Matters' endorsement because the Contract was incompatible with full reproductive rights. She repeated this entire charade again in 1996 when, instead of signing the Contract, she began her long streak of anti-choice votes. She has aligned herself with the rabidly anti-choice Bush White House. Her record:

1. Voted repeatedly in favor of a ban that extremists intentionally mislabeled "partial-birth," but is so broadly defined that it could be applied to many different procedures used as early as the first trimester. The ban removes doctors' discretion to use the abortion method

safest for their patient and makes no exception for a woman's health. (The pre-Bush Supreme Court found similar proposed bans to be unconstitutional.)



Kelly voted against a motion to amend the bill to permit doctors to perform whichever procedure was best to preserve a woman's health.

2. Voted repeatedly to pass the notorious Child Custody Protection Act, which would make it a federal crime to transport minors across state lines for purposes of obtaining an abortion. (This includes prosecution of grandparents, aunts, siblings and clergy.)

Kelly voted against the Jackson-Lee motion which would exempt an adult sibling, grandparent, minister, rabbi, pastor, priest, or other religious leader from federal prosecution

3. Voted to stop Washington D.C. from using federal funds to pay for abortion procedures for residents, except in cases of rape, incest or danger to the health of the woman.

4. Voted to withhold U.S. population funds to ensure that they are not used to inform women about abortion.

5. Voted to pass a foreign aid bill that included language prohibiting population planning assistance to any foreign organization that lobbies for a change in abortion laws, or performs or actively promotes abortion, except in cases of rape or incest, or when the life of the woman would be endangered.

And the list goes on. For more information, go to: www.choicematters.org

John Hall – Pro-choice Without Reservation

The winner of the hotly contested four-way Democratic primary in CD 19, John Hall is staunchly pro-choice and committed to preserving a woman's right to choose. He has proven himself to be a capable and passionate advocate.



A former county legislator and school board president, as well as 35-year member of Local 02 AFM and AFTRA and award-winning musician, John Hall has demonstrated that he has the energy, knowledge and commitment to get the job done. Choice Matters endorses John Hall for Congress!

Paid for by ProChoice Voter

Electing Judges: Pro-Choice vs. No-Choice

The role personal perspective plays in judicial decisions is seismic. Personal opinions do matter, and not just on the US Supreme Court. Personal bias affects how a judge treats those who come before her/him, the sentence imposed, the bail required, and more.

Just imagine the impact a judge's view on reproductive rights can have in a state that requires parental notification/consent. To avoid informing her parent(s), a minor may apply for a judicial bypass, which means a judge can allow the girl to terminate the pregnancy if she/he deems the girl mature and capable of making the decision. If the judge is anti-choice, what are the chances that he/she will permit the abortion?

The Process

Unlike those running for political office, candidates for judge may not offer opinions on disputed legal and political issues. Choice Matters does not send questionnaires but discusses with candidates their general philosophies regarding pregnant women and the law. We do not compromise their judicial integrity and do not ask how they would rule on any case. To qualify for consideration by Choice Matters, candidates must agree to an interview and eschew the Right to Life (RTL) Party.

This Year

Voters will choose two NYS Supreme Court judges, one County Court judge, and one Family Court judge on November 7th. All courts handle abortion-related cases from different legal approaches.

Supreme Court

Choice Matters is proud to endorse three of the four Supreme Court candidates:

Rory J. Bellantoni is an Acting Supreme Court Justice presiding over the County Sex-Offender Court. His judicial experience includes serving as County Court Judge, Acting Family Court Judge, and Family Court Hearing Examiner. His legal background includes practicing law as a Senior Assistant District Attorney in Rockland County.

Alan Scheinkman is an accomplished attorney, author, and educator. His legal experience includes serving as Westchester County Attorney and Associate Counsel, State Temporary Commission on the Recodification of the Family Court Act. He has authored several books on law, including Practitioner's Handbook of Appeals to the Appellate Divisions of the State of New York and New York Law of Domestic Relations. Scheinkman has also served as an Associate Professor of Law at St. John's University.

Sam Walker has over 17 years of judicial experience. He has served as Acting Supreme Court Justice, Westchester County Court Judge, Acting Westchester Family Court Judge, and Mount Vernon City Court Judge. Walker served on the Grievance Committee of the 9th Judicial District. A former Patent Attorney, he was President of the Westchester Bar Association.

Voters Remember and Beware: Two years ago, Joseph Cerreto appeared on the RTL line when running for NYS Supreme Court. He did not just take the line; he collected signatures to resurrect the line.* The good news is he lost. The bad news is that he's back, but not on the RTL line. He must be hoping that the voters don't remember 2004!

County Court

Jeffrey A. Cohen is Choice Matters' pick for County Court Judge. Cohen is the Yorktown Town Justice and has been elected to that position for five consecutive terms. He is a member of the Westchester County Criminal Justice Advisory Board, the Judiciary Committee of Westchester County Domestic Violence Council, and the 9th Judicial District Committee to Promote Gender Fairness in the Courts.

Both of his opponents, Charles Devlin and Raymond Belair, are anti-choice. Belair appears on the RTL line.

Family Court

Choice Matters is co-endorsing the Democratic incumbent and the Republican challenger.

Sandra B. Edlitz is a sitting Family

Court Judge. Prior to becoming a judge, Edlitz served as Family Court Hearing Examiner for six years, handling over 3,000 cases per year. Before that, she was an attorney for the Supervising Family Court Judge in Manhattan.

Peter C. Kuper has extensive experience in the Bronx Family Court. Kuper worked for 14 years as Law Guardian for children and six years as Court Attorney-Referee presiding over trials and hearings. Kuper has 21 years of trial experience.

Their anti-choice opponent, Anthony J De Cintio Jr, is the RTL party candidate.

*To retain a place automatically on the ballot, a party must receive, at a minimum, a certain percentage of the vote in a gubernatorial election year. The Green Party and the Right to Life Party both failed to reach that minimum in the 2002 election.

In Memoriam: Lawrence Lader

On May 7, 2006, the pro-choice community lost one of its staunchest and outspoken allies—Larry Lader, the personification of the reproductive rights activist. He was a prolific writer on abortion rights and family planning, beginning with his biography of Margaret Sanger in 1955. His 1966 book *Abortion*, which was the first to advocate for a woman's total control over her reproductive life, was cited repeatedly in the *Roe v. Wade* decision. Lader was the founding chair of National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) and helped organize the campaign that resulted in the 1970 New York law legalizing abortion. In his capacity as president of Abortion Rights Mobilization, Larry remained active until his death. He will be greatly missed.

SD 40 — Going Pro-Choice with Mike Kaplowitz



During an interview in 1997, then county legislator hopeful Mike Kaplowitz said, "Generally, I seek consensus and compromise among different interests—that's my style." "However," he explained, "there are a few exceptions, and a woman's right to choose is definitely one of these. I strongly believe that this is not an area in which [elected officials] should become involved."

Over his five terms as county legislator, Kaplowitz has repeatedly demonstrated that he meant what he said. He is a strong supporter of women's reproductive rights.

In contrast, his opponent, incumbent Vincent Leibell, enjoys an almost perfect anti-choice voting record according to the New York State Right to Life Committee. Leibell received an Anti-Choice rating from NARAL Pro-Choice New York in 2000, 2002, and 2004.

Leibell's own record attests that he not only voted to

make the performance of certain second-trimester abortions a Class E felony, he also voted against an amendment to make exceptions to "avert serious health damage to the woman." Leibell does not care that the procedure he would outlaw is used when a pregnancy has gone terribly wrong, and that the procedure has been deemed medically safest for the woman and most likely to preserve her ability to have future pregnancies. Instead, apparently, Leibell believes senators should play doctor.

Leibell also consistently votes against funding abortions for women on Medicaid, and in support of the so-called Unborn Victims of Violence Act (aka Fetal Rights Bill). The Fetal Rights Bill separates a woman from her fetus by endowing the fetus with the legal status of an autonomous person. The bill is a stealth attempt by anti-choice extremists to put into law the idea that life begins at conception.

Choice Matters strongly supports Mike Kaplowitz. Residents of District 40 have a clear choice between pro-choice legislator Mike Kaplowitz and anti-choice Vinnie Leibell, who is no friend to women.

A Salute To Alan Hevesi



A longtime supporter and activist for choice, Alan Hevesi has proven himself an outstanding NYS Comptroller committed to reproductive rights. Upon taking office in 2002, Hevesi initiated an analysis of the impact increased access to emergency contraception would have on New York State. His study concluded that greater availability of EC would reduce the number of abortions by 82,000 annually and the

number of unintended pregnancies by 122,000. Increased access would also save almost a half a billion dollars annually in health costs resulting from unintended pregnancies, including more than \$261 million in Medicaid costs. The findings of this study speak directly to the need to pass The Unintended Pregnancy Prevention Act.

Thank you, NYS Comptroller Hevesi!

SD 34 Re-Elect Jeff Klein



Jeff Klein has only been in the New York State Senate for two years, but he has already made his mark. Since being elected to the Senate, he has supported the Healthy Teens Act and the Unintended Pregnancy Act. In 2006, he took the lead in breaking a two-house stalemate and organized a statewide press and email campaign in the final days of session to get legislation passed to eliminate the statute of limitations on rape. In 2007, Klein intends to continue

actively promoting a progressive agenda that includes improved access to reproductive health services and meaningful sex education for students. Jeff Klein has once again earned Choice Matters' endorsement!

AD 99 – Choice Matters Endorses

Ken Harper – Not Extremist Ball!



The outcome of the Republican primary in the 99th Assembly District is a warning sign for pro-choice voters. Staunchly anti-choice Greg Ball challenged incumbent Willis Stephens and won by running an extremely negative campaign. Ball will most certainly bring his anti-choice agenda to the Assembly if he is elected in November.

BUT voters of the 99th AD have a strong pro-choice alternative: Democratic challenger Ken Harper. Unlike his opponent, Harper is 100% pro-choice and supports stem cell research. He is committed to preserving a woman's right to choose. A vote for Ken Harper is a vote for choice!

The Quote of the Year

When asked under what conditions abortion should be permitted, South Dakota State Senator Bill Napoli said, "A real-life description to me would be a rape victim, brutally raped, savaged. The girl was a virgin. She was religious. She planned on saving her virginity until she was married. She was brutalized and raped, sodomized as bad as you can possibly make it, and is impregnated. I mean, that girl could be so messed up, physically and psychologically, that carrying that child could very well threaten her life." (News Hour with Jim Lehrer, 3/3/06)

**ACTION
ALERT!
ACTION
ALERT!**

These elected officials represent you. Contact them and let them know how YOU want them to vote.

Your Elected Officials: Keep For Future Reference

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President George W. Bush [-] R,C
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20500
Opinion phone: 202/456-1111
Fax 202/456-2461
E-mail: president@whitehouse.gov

U.S. Senate

Hon. _____
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
Switchboard: 202/224-3121

Hon. Hillary Rodham Clinton [-] D,L,W
212/688-6262; 202/224-4451
Senator@clinton.senate.gov

Hon. Charles E. Schumer [+] D,L,I
212/486-4430; 202/224-6542
Senator@schumer.senate.gov

U.S. House of Representatives

Hon. _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
Switchboard: 202/224-3121

CD 17 Eliot Engel [+] D,L
718/796-9700; 202/225-2464
www.house.gov/writerep

CD 18 Nita Lowey [+] D
914/428-1707; 202/225-6506
nita.lowey@mail.house.gov

CD 19 Sue Kelly [+/-] R,C
914/241-6340; 202/225-5441
dearsue@mail.house.gov

Governor

Hon. George Pataki [-] R,C
Executive Chamber
State Capital
Albany, New York 12224
Phone: 518/474-8390
gov.pataki@chamber.state.ny.us

NYS Senate

Hon. _____
New York State Senate
Albany, New York 12247
Switchboard: 518/455-2800

SD 34 Jeffrey Klein [+] D
718/822-2049; 518/455-3595
jdklein@senate.state.ny.us

SD 35 Nicholas Spano [+] R,C, I ◊
914/969-5194; 518/455-2231
spano@senate.state.ny.us

SD 36 Ruth Hassell-Thompson [+] D
518/455-2061
hassell@senate.state.ny.us

SD 37 Suzi Oppenheimer [+] D, W
914/934-5250; 518/455-2031
oppenhei@senate.state.ny.us

SD 40 Vincent Leibell [-] R,C,I
845/279-3773; 518/455-3111
leibell@senate.state.ny.us

Majority Leader Joseph Bruno [-] R,C, I
518/455-3191
bruno@senate.state.ny.us
Health Committee Chair
Kemp Hannon [-] R,C, I
518/455-2200
hannon@senate.state.ny.us

NYS Assembly

Hon. _____
New York State Assembly
Albany, New York 12248
Switchboard 518/455-4100

AD 87 Gary Pretlow [+] D, I, W
914/667-0127; 518/455-5291
pretloj@assembly.state.ny.us

AD 88 Amy Paulin [+] D,I, W
914/723-1115; 518/455-5585
paulina@assembly.state.ny.us

AD 89 Adam T. Bradley [+] D, I, W
914/686-7335; 518/455-5397
bradlea@assembly.state.ny.us

AD 90 Sandra Galef [+] D, I, W
914/941-1111; 518/455-5348
galefs@assembly.state.ny.us

AD 91 George Latimer [+] D, I, W
914/777-3832; 518/455-4897
latimeg@assembly.state.ny.us

AD 92 Richard Brodsky [+] D, I, W
914/345-0432; 518/455-5753
brodskr@assembly.state.ny.us

AD 93 vacant
914/779-8805; 518/455-3662

AD 99 Willis H. Stephens Jr. [+] R,C, I
845/225-5038; 518/455-5783
stephew@assembly.state.ny.us

Speaker: Sheldon Silver [-] D, L
212/312-1420; 518/455-3791
speaker@assembly.state.ny.us
Health Committee Chair
Richard Gottfried [+] D, L, W
518/455-4941
gottfr@assembly.state.ny.us

County Executive

Andrew Spano [+] D, I, C, L, W
Michaelian Office Building
White Plains, New York 10601
Phone: 995-2900
ceo@westchestergov.com

Westchester Board of Legislators

Hon. _____
Michaelian Office Building
White Plains, New York 10601
Switchboard 995-2800

CBL 1 George Oros [-] R,C, I ◊
CBL 2 Ursula LaMotte [-] R,C, I
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CBL 6 Martin Rogowsky [+] D,I,W
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CBL 13 Clinton Young, Jr. [+] D, I
CBL 14 Bernice Spreckman [+] R,C,I, W
CBL 15 Gordon Burrows [-] R, C
CBL 16 Andrea Stewart-Cousins [+] D,W
CBL 17 Jose Alvarado [+] D

Key

+ Pro-choice
- Anti-choice
+/- Mixed, qualified
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R Republican
C Conservative

I Independence
L Liberal
RTL Right to Life
W Working Families
◊ Has run on RTL

This list keeps improving because YOU elect pro-choice candidates.

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the editor

The New York Times
229 West 43rd Street
New York, NY 10036
Fax: 212/556-3622
e-mail: letters@nytimes.com

The Journal News
1 Gannett Drive
White Plains, NY 10604
Fax: 696-8396
e-mail: letters@thejournalnews.com

Weekly papers:
Check the mastheads
for addresses and fax
numbers.

Plan B is Finally Approved

After more than three years of putting politics before science, the FDA has finally approved Plan B, an emergency contraceptive that can prevent pregnancy if taken within 72 hours of sexual intercourse, for women 18 years of age and older.

The Impact

Given that the FDA's own advisory boards did not recommend an age restriction be implemented in the approval of nonprescription Plan B and that the previous acting head of the FDA focused on the 16 and younger population, the requirement now that Barr Labs amend its application to 18+ years can only be seen as political maneuvering. Barr must also create a program that "protects" minors from gaining non-prescription access to EC before the drug can be approved, and detail the steps it will take to ensure that non-prescription Plan B will only be sold at pharmacies (no gas stations or convenience stores), must be kept behind the counter, and issued only upon proof of age with valid ID.

In response to these FDA requirements, Tina Raine, an University of California - San Francisco associate professor who has studied EC use, said, "Teenagers are likely to start having sex before they're ready and able. They are more likely to have accidents. And they're going to be the ones less likely to have a doctor get a prescription. ... So to make it most difficult for them to get [Plan B] doesn't really make sense." Raine also reported that EC availability has not been shown "to promote risky behavior" and that it can prevent unplanned pregnancies (San Francisco Chronicle, 8/25/06).

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists released a statement pointing out that minors will most likely continue to have difficulty obtaining Plan B and that "FDA has missed an unparalleled opportunity to prevent teenage pregnancies" (Chicago Tribune, 8/24/06).

It is therefore no surprise that some experts have predicted that the nonprescription Plan B approval will not cause a dramatic change in the number of unintended pregnancies.

Spotlight on South Dakota

South Dakota, already the state with the strictest abortion regulations, has passed a law that outlaws all abortion except in cases where the mother's life is in danger. There are no exceptions for cases in which a mother's health may be threatened or cases in which the pregnancy results from rape or incest. South Dakota Governor Mike Rounds signed the bill into law on March 6, 2006.

The law has not gone into effect because reproductive rights advocates filed petitions with more than 38,000 signatures, well over the 16,728 signatures needed to send the measure to a vote. The state's Secretary of State certified that enough signatures were collected to send a law to a vote in November.

Pro-choice advocates hope to keep the law out of the courts by successfully defeating it at the polls. Experience dictates that if this case were to get to the Supreme Court, the

A Brief History

In April 2003 an application for Plan B over-the-counter sales was submitted to the FDA. In December, two of the FDA's own advisory committees recommended that the drug be made available without a prescription. In May 2004, Dr. Steven Galson, acting director of the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, ignored the advice of the FDA's own experts and sent a "nonapprovable" letter to Barr Laboratories, the manufacturer of Plan B, requesting more data on how girls younger than 16 could use it safely without a doctor's supervision.

Barr Laboratories revised its application, and resubmitted it. The FDA then failed to make a decision on the application by the statutory deadline in January.

In an attempt to force a decision on Plan B by the FDA, Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton and Patty Murray placed "holds" on Dr. Lester Crawford's nomination to head the FDA.

In response to the Senators' "holds," administration officials stated the agency would issue a decision on Plan B by September 1. The senators allowed the nomination to proceed. Dr. Crawford was confirmed on July 18. (Crawford subsequently resigned for non-related reasons.) Despite its commitment, the FDA again announced that it would further delay a final ruling.

Senator Clinton, together with Senator Murray, D-Wash., again placed a hold on the nomination of the new nominee, Andrew C. von Eschenbach, to head the FDA until the agency rendered a decision.

In July 2006, the FDA asked to meet with Barr Pharmaceuticals within seven days to discuss the application. The announcement came less than one day before the Senate confirmation hearings for the new acting FDA commissioner, Andrew C. von Eschenbach, were to begin.

August 24, 2006, the FDA approved Plan B for over-the-counter sale to women 18 and over.

Justices might not overturn Roe in its entirety, but they would almost definitely further chop away at the parameters under which a woman is permitted to exercise her right to choose.

Did You Know...

South Dakota is one of three states with only one abortion provider. (Mississippi and North Dakota are the others.) Abortions are available at only one clinic in the state—located in Sioux Falls—and the procedure is offered only once a week. Because no local doctors will perform abortions at the clinic, a rotating list of doctors fly in from Minnesota to perform the procedure.

In 2005, South Dakota became one of four states—joining Illinois, Kentucky, and Louisiana—with a "trigger law"

See Spotlight on Page 13

¡La Anticoncepción de Emergencia y el RU486 NO son lo mismo!

La Píldora Anticonceptiva de Emergencia (PAE) es un anticonceptivo que, si se toma dentro de las 120 horas después de haber tenido relaciones sexuales sin protección, impide que la mujer quede embarazada. La PAE reduce significativamente —en un 89%— las posibilidades de quedar embarazada. Su acción consiste en interrumpir la ovulación, impidiendo la fecundación del óvulo o impidiendo que el óvulo se implante en el útero. De este modo, la concepción NO se produce.

La Anticoncepción de Emergencia:

- NO es un aborto (funciona inhibiendo la ovulación, la fecundación o la implantación).
- Impide el embarazo.
- Use la PAE cuando falle su método anticonceptivo habitual, o después de un coito sin protección (es decir, si se rompe el condón, en caso de violación, o si dejó de tomar sus pastillas anticonceptivas por dos o más días).
- Deben tomarse dos píldoras:
 - la 1ª. píldora debe tomarse dentro de las 120 horas después del coito.
 - la 2ª. píldora debe tomarse 12 horas después de la 1ª. píldora.
- Está aprobada por la FDA para prevenir el embarazo.
- El precio suele ser unos \$25.
- No se usa para terminar un embarazo.

El RU486 es un tipo de aborto en el que se toman píldoras para terminar un embarazo. Para que dé resultado, las píldoras deben tomarse antes de terminar la novena semana de embarazo. A este tipo de método también se lo llama “un aborto médico.”

RU486:

- Es un Aborto No-Quirúrgico.
- Termina un embarazo por medio de una combinación de píldoras que deben tomarse antes de terminar la novena semana de embarazo, para que resulten efectivas.
- Está aprobado por la FDA para terminar el embarazo.
- El precio suele estar entre los \$350 y los \$575.
- No previene el embarazo.

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* Planned Parenthood es una organización sin fines de lucro que provee todos los servicios de atención a la salud reproductiva de las mujeres, incluyendo anticonceptivos y aborto. La mayor parte de sus precios y tarifas se determinan en base a los ingresos de la paciente y del número de miembros en su familia. No se le niega atención a nadie, ni en caso que le sea imposible pagar. La organización tiene oficinas en todo Westchester, incluyendo Mount Kisco, Mount

Vernon, New Rochelle, Port Chester y White Plains.

*All Women’s Health and Medical Services es un centro privado que provee atención especializada en la salud reproductiva de las mujeres. Sus tarifas no se basan en una escala salarial pero, al igual que Planned Parenthood, acepta seguro médico y Medicaid. All Women’s Health and Medical Services tiene oficinas en distintas localidades, incluyendo White Plains: 914-946-0050.

* Una lista de clínicas que proporcionan servicios de aborto puede encontrarse ahora en Internet, en una nueva página publicada por la National Coalition of Abortion Providers. Las direcciones de esos sitios son: <http://www.abortionclinic-directory.com> o <http://www.ru486.com> — para ver una lista organizada por estado o por servicios. Según la información en línea, este documento, que se publica bajo el nombre de ‘Abortion Clinic Directory’ es producto de la Foundation to Preserve Access to Abortion, una organización sin fines de lucro que constituye la rama educativa de la mencionada Coalición Nacional.

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I won't vote for anyone who would restrict abortions.

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Spotlight from page 11

that bans abortion, which would go into effect immediately if Roe v. Wade was reversed.

Prior to the passage of this law, South Dakota's legislation mandated that a woman receive state-directed counseling that included information designed to discourage abortion, followed by a 24-hour waiting period. Minors were required to notify a parent. Public funding was available only in those instances that the mother's life was in imminent danger.

The Goal

The goal of the legislation is to challenge Roe. South Dakota State Senator Bill Napoli summed up the purpose of this legislation when he said, "...I'm not sure that the Supreme Court is ready for us yet, but what's that old saying, 'There's no time like the present?'" He explained that, "The most important part of this bill is that, if Roe v. Wade is overturned, states' rights are returned to us to decide what to do about abortion."

Governor Rounds' position is that the chance that Roe will be overturned by this law is "extremely remote," but that "For those individuals that would feel discouraged, that say, 'Gee, we could have eliminated Roe v. Wade, but we've never had an opportunity in the last 15 years to do so,' this is an opportunity to say, 'See, there it is. The court may or may not, but it'll take us three years to find out.' In the meantime, let's continue to work at chipping away at Roe v. Wade one step at a time."

South Dakota State Representative Elaine Roberts has reminded her colleagues that they have already "chipped, and chipped, and chipped; now we're here with this full fledge [eradication of reproductive rights]. What will be next?"

"...We already have a law that says that pharmacists by conscience could refuse to fill my prescription for contraceptives. There is already a move from some groups who have worked on this to say that there should be no contraceptives, that sexual intercourse is for the purpose of reproduction."

Several states legislatures are in the process of drafting similar laws with the hope of taking it to the next level should South Dakota's law be turned back on November 7th.

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Supreme Court stated in Roe v. Wade that, "This right to privacy...is broad enough to encompass a woman's decision whether or not to terminate her pregnancy..." Equally, we have relied on the companion case, Doe v. Bolton, to protect our health and our doctors.

This decision to cite case law, to take the higher road—the intellectual road—has cost us. We may have won the first rounds in court, but we lost the public. The decision to terminate a pregnancy is definitely a private one, but it is also an emotional one.

Perception

As any woman will acknowledge, the decision to carry a pregnancy to term or to terminate it is a highly charged emotional one. Where many women choose to have children, no one—not a teen, not a newly wed, not a fifty-year-old woman, nor a rape victim—thinks, "I'm going to go out and have unprotected sex so that I can have an abortion." No one wants an abortion. But that is the perception the anti-choice movement has perpetuated.

In reality, a woman who finds herself with an unwanted pregnancy and chooses to terminate it is acting caringly. She is acting in the best interest of that potential being. Every child, from infancy on, needs a loving and devoted parent to survive. A woman who says that, for whatever reason, she cannot be a mother to that prospective child is not, as the anti-choice movement would have you believe, acting selfishly. She is looking beyond the birth canal and the 40 weeks of pregnancy, and judging what is in the best interest of the prospective being and herself—a very thoughtful and caring act.

At a conference in 2003, NYS Senator David Paterson called the decision to carry a pregnancy or to terminate one a responsible one. He explained that a woman making a decision about her pregnancy is acting responsibly. Paterson

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was right; the woman's determination should be regarded as responsible and private and caring.

Victory Lies in Changing Perception

The battle for reproductive rights has been linked to the entire package of issues related to women's equal rights. We have considered it a natural part of the struggle to control our lives socially, politically and financially. Intellectually this has made a lot of sense. Emotionally, we lose.

As Lenny Bruce once said, and the line for which he is perhaps most famous, "Every man wants a wife, a mother, and a \$500 a night hooker" all in one person. Women and men alike, as well as the marketing industry perceive women just that way. A woman will laughingly say, "I have three children" meaning her two kids and her husband; a man doesn't say, "I have three children" and mean his wife is included. A woman might say her husband is playing with his toys meaning his car or some motorized tool. The man never says that about his wife. She and he see the woman as the wife/mother, as the serious one, as the caregiver for parents, children, and spouse. The honored woman, the loved woman is the one who is self-less; she lives to give to others.

Regardless of the reason for this perception, it is how society sees women and men. Men have toys; women have responsibilities. This view has allowed anti-choicers to portray women who opt to terminate a pregnancy as selfish, irresponsible, and heartless. They do not belong to the loved group of women. The perpetuated perception is that women who have abortions are driven by self-gratification and egotism, that the fetus is in the way of a prom dress or a corner office.

We, the pro-choice movement, must decide whether we again take the high road, stay united in our issues, fight this view of women, and lose the right to control our own bodies. Or sever reproductive rights from the other issues, accept how society sees women, take control of the language, and win not just a battle but the war. It may not be the politically correct option but it is the winning one.

The True and Necessary Image to Embrace
The pregnant woman is a loving, compassionate woman

who uses her abilities as a caregiver to look to the future and judge what is in the best interest of the fetus post-womb and herself. If the woman recognizes that she cannot be a mother to that future being, she is making a very caring decision in terminating the pregnancy. No child deserves to be born simply to be placed into a system that is already overwhelmed by unwanted children. Every child needs a home in which to grow. The woman who does not see that in her future is acting thoughtfully and caringly.

The first step in winning the war for reproductive freedom is to embrace the women in our midst who have had abortions. We must acknowledge them as the loving and caring individuals they are, who faced a hard emotional decision and concluded that what was in the best interest of the two parties involved was to terminate the pregnancy.

The fall 2006 edition of MS. magazine lists by name many women who have had abortions. These women are undoubtedly doctors, lawyers, grandmothers, mothers, sisters, and daughters. They are also caring responsible people who looked to the future and dealt with what they saw. Through these very eyes lies the vision, language, and presentation needed to take back this issue—if our movement is willing to do so.

WCLA-Choice Matters les da la bienvenida a sus lectores que hablan Español. Para más información, diríjense a la página 12.

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