

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ACT – Tips for writing a personalized letter of support to your representatives

1. Go to www.voteaprochoiceny.org and **look us the names and contact information** for both your State Assemblymember and State Senator
2. Always **tell your legislators you live in their district!** Legislators want to represent the interests of their constituents, especially if they know that your vote depends on it!
3. When drafting your letter, refer to the **Reproductive Health Act brochure and “Ideas to Consider” sheet** to get an idea of what others are saying.
4. **Share your unique perspective** on why your legislator should support the Reproductive Health Act. Are you a parent who wants to ensure your daughter’s rights are protected? Are you a Doctor, Nurse, Teacher or Social Worker who works with women facing unplanned pregnancies everyday? Tell your legislator what is special about you and how it has led you to support the Reproductive Health Act.
5. Be clear in requesting that you would **like your legislator to vote in support** of the Reproductive Health Act. You want to make sure that they know what you are asking loud and clear!
6. **Include your contact information** (especially your home address, so that they know you live in the district). Be open to continued communication and updates!
7. Send it in ASAP and **tell your friends to write letters of their own** – the New York State Legislature needs to hear from pro-choice voices throughout the state to pass the Reproductive Health Act. It’s up to all of us!

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ACT –

Some ideas to consider when writing your personalized letter of support!

- **The Reproductive Health Act guarantees a woman's right to control her reproductive health;** ensures that a woman will be able to have an abortion if her health is endangered; treats the regulation of abortion as an issue of public health and medical practice, rather than as a potential crime; and guarantees everyone the right to use or refuse contraception.
- **New Yorkers overwhelmingly support a woman's right to decide when and whether to have a child.** In fact, three-quarters of New York voters support the Reproductive Health Act, even after hearing arguments against the bill.
- **New York's law is outdated and inadequate.** After almost 40 years, times have changed but our state law still regulates abortion in the criminal code and lacks protections if a woman's health is endangered.
- **New York is not secure in relying on the federal protections provided by *Roe*.** State legislatures across the country have enacted over 450 bills that would ban or restrict abortion, some of which are a direct challenge to *Roe v. Wade*. All it takes is one of these challenges to reach the Supreme Court, and *Roe* could be overturned.
- **Seven states (CA, CT, HI, ME, MD, NV, WA) have already passed laws like the Reproductive Health Act.** New York needs to reclaim our rightful place as a pro-choice leader by passing this bill.
- **Seventy percent of New York voters agree that the state legislature needs to pass a law which protects a woman's right to have an abortion in New York State.** In fact, New Yorkers are more likely to vote for an elected official/candidate who supports this bill than one who doesn't.
- **It's time for the New York State Legislature to listen to constituent voices and support the Reproductive Health Act!**