



**NARAL  
Pro-Choice  
Minnesota**  
Reproductive  
Freedom & Choice

NARAL Pro-Choice

Minnesota

uses the political

process to guarantee

every woman the right

to make personal

decisions regarding

the full range of

reproductive choices,

including preventing

unintended pregnancy,

bearing healthy

children, and choosing

legal abortion.

## Minnesota Reproductive Privacy Act SF 3720/HF 4059

NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota calls on the Legislature to pass the **Minnesota Reproductive Privacy Act**. The Minnesota Reproductive Privacy Act will prohibit, consistent with *Roe v. Wade*, the interference by the government with a woman's right to choose to bear a child or terminate a pregnancy.

### Why now?

Even though the *Roe v. Wade* decision guaranteed a constitutional right to choose whether to terminate or continue a pregnancy, threats to that right remain, including possible reversal or further erosion by the Supreme Court of the right.

### Support:

- Minnesota was founded on the principles of individual liberty, personal privacy, and equality. Such principles ensure that each individual is free to make the most intimate decisions free from governmental interference and discrimination. A woman's decision to commence, prevent, continue, or terminate a pregnancy is one of the most intimate decisions she will ever face. As such, reproductive health decisions are best made by the woman, in consultation with her medical provider or loved ones, without governmental interference.
- The majority of Minnesotans support *Roe*. (57% support the ruling, only 36% oppose it, according to a December 2002 *Star Tribune* poll.)
- The Supreme Court has repeatedly recognized that the right to privacy is protected by the U.S. Constitution. As such it encompasses the right of every woman to weigh the personal, moral, and religious considerations involved in deciding whether to commence, prevent, continue, or terminate a pregnancy.
- Access to legal, safe abortions has protected the health and lives of women in Minnesota. Prior to the *Roe v. Wade* decision, hundreds of thousands of American women each year were forced to resort to illegal abortions, despite the known hazards that included unsanitary conditions, incompetent treatment, infection, hemorrhage, disfiguration, and death.
- Equal participation in American life is a fundamental value in the U.S. Constitution. Women deserve the right to control their own fertility. Few events affect a woman's future than bearing a child. If and when she has a child should be her choice to make.

### Recommendation:

Enacting the **Minnesota Reproductive Privacy Act** will assure that this policy, which affirms women's rights and protects women's health, remains effective in protecting Minnesota women regardless of future decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court.