

National Organization for Women-New York State, Inc. (NOW-NYS)
Women's Reproductive Health Act Petition

WHEREAS, in 1970, New York State was one of the first states in the nation to legalize abortion, three years prior to the U.S. Supreme Court's decision '*Roe v. Wade*', which also legalized it under the protection of the federal Constitution, and New York has long been a pioneer in the reproductive rights movement;

WHEREAS, federal law does not clearly specify the principles underlying the *Roe v. Wade* decision, and should that decision be overturned, would not, in itself, protect a woman's right to make private medical decisions regarding contraception and abortion;

WHEREAS, the **NYS Reproductive Health Act (RHA)** updates New York's abortion laws and establishes a fundamental, statutory right to privacy of every woman in making personal reproductive decisions; and

WHEREAS, New York State must once, again, take the lead, as further attempts are made by anti-choice legislators to remove women's fundamental rights;

THEREFORE, as a constituent who strongly supports women's health, I join with the NOW-NYS in urging the entire NYS Legislature to pass the women's **Reproductive Health Act (RHA)** introduced by Governor Paterson.

(Sign name)

(Print name)

(Address)

(Phone/email)

Please return the signed petitions to: NOW-NYS, 1500 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12205 phone; 518-452-3944, fax; 518-452-3861, Info@nownys.org, www.nownys.org