



Life News

Long Island's Pro-Life Newsletter

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NYS EQUAL PROTECTION AMENDMENT CHANGE - 2024 BALLOT

The NYS Constitution contains an Equal Protection Amendment. In the November 2024 elections, the NYS ballot will include a referendum on edits to that amendment (dubbed the 'Equal Rights Amendment').

To amend the NYS Constitution, the change must be approved by two consecutive legislative sessions and then passed by NYS voters by majority vote. **Elections have consequences!** The NYS legislature passed the amendment changes in July 2022 and again in January 2023. In November 2024, YOU have the opportunity to vote for or **against (pro-life position)** the revised amendment.

NYS Legislature bills A1283 and S108: Concurrent Resolution of the Senate and Assembly proposing an amendment to Section 11 of Article 1 of the constitution, in relation to equal protection. [Ed: New classes added are **bold**; bracketed text to be deleted]

No person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws of this state or any subdivision thereof. No person shall, because of race, color, **ethnicity, national origin, age, disability**, creed [or], religion, **or sex, including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and reproductive healthcare and autonomy**, be subjected to any discrimination in [his or her] **their** civil rights by any other person or by any firm, corporation, or institution, or by the state or any agency or subdivision of the state, **pursuant to law**.

Ramifications if the revised amendment is approved.

This language has no minimum age (i.e., applies to all minors) and doesn't include exemptions (e.g., religious or conscience).

The pregnancy/reproductive terminology means access by all for surgical and chemical abortion for any reason throughout a pregnancy, as well as IVF and other reproductive procedures that threaten preborn lives. Once abortion-on-demand is embedded in the constitution, it becomes far more difficult to change than via the current pro-life strategy to pass pro-life laws. Moreover, inclusion of the new text under an anti-discrimination clause adds an alarming element against right to life efforts.

- √ Would conscience clause protections for pro-life healthcare workers be illegal?
- √ Would Catholic hospitals and pro-life doctors & nurses not have the right to refuse to commit abortion and dispense the abortion pill?
- √ Would your pro-life healthcare providers be allowed to practice medicine from their pro-life worldview or be restricted in what they can do or say, at risk of losing their license or job?
- √ Can pro-life churches, pro-life pregnancy centers and pro-life organizations operate without referring those who contact them to Planned Parenthood for abortion, abortifacient contraceptives, etc.

HELP PREBORN BABIES! Educate yourself and others about the 'Equality Amendment' ballot proposal. Ask your pro-life clergy & healthcare providers what they are doing to help stop passage of this anti-life referendum. *Please start now!*

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"Life News" is a publication of the Long Island Coalition for Life [www.prolifeLI.org]

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