

Is Kansas the “new New York” for abortion? Regrettably, yes.

By Chuck Weber

Is Kansas the “new New York” when it comes to abortion? Regrettably, the short answer is yes. How did we get here? What can Kansas Catholics do about this horrific turn of events?

Barely a year ago, lawmakers in New York cheered--*literally cheered*--passage of the “Reproductive Health Act” (RHA). Signed into law by a Catholic governor, the RHA allows termination of preborn babies up to the very instant of birth, for any reason. State taxpayers even pay the cost of abortion for Medicaid clients.

New York’s new abortion law was widely regarded as perhaps the most liberal and most deadly in the nation for mothers and their preborn children. Shocked into responding, the Kansas Legislature passed a bipartisan resolution condemning the RHA, saying, in part, that the law incited “abusive behavior towards a pregnant woman.”

Little did they know Kansas would soon stand shoulder-to-shoulder on abortion with New York.

In a stunning development just weeks later, the Kansas State Supreme Court issued a “worst case scenario” decision in the abortion case called *Hodes & Nauser v. Schmidt*.

The Court declared unconstitutional a Kansas state law banning the barbaric practice of live dismemberment abortion. The immediate effect means an average of nine preborn babies continue to die in Kansas by this abortion method *each week*. (source: Kansas Department of Health and Environment)

But the Court went further, declaring abortion as a nearly unlimited “natural right” in the Kansas Constitution! In fact, Kansas abortion law is now more extreme, more radical than the infamous *Roe v. Wade* decision that first legalized abortion.

The impact of this decision clears the way for wiping out virtually every abortion restriction and law in Kansas. These include, but are not limited to: prohibitions on late term abortions, parental consent of minors seeking an abortion, taxpayer-funded abortions (including Medicaid-paid abortion) and much more.

The legal landscape is now clear for unlimited and unrestricted abortion. Put another way, Kansas is the “new New York” when it comes to abortion.

TAKING ACTION

Kansans do not issue threats, engage in personal attacks or take part in violent protests. The Kansas Bill of Rights declares: “All political power is inherent in the people...”

So, we seek passage of a clear and clarifying state constitutional amendment that simply and reasonably says abortion is not a “natural” constitutional right in Kansas. Passage of this amendment will once again allow restrictions and laws about abortion in Kansas to be enforced. Saving the lives of babies and the health of mothers will be the result.

Here's how Kansas Catholics—and anyone else—can help.

- Contact your State Senator and Representative and urge them to vote YES on allowing a statewide vote on the constitutional amendment. You can find that person by going to www.KansasCatholic.org and click **TAKE ACTION**.
- On that page you can also sign a petition that also makes this request!
- Most importantly, PRAY. We have dedicated our constitutional amendment efforts to Our Lady of Guadalupe. Pray the Rosary! Join the Bishops of Kansas in the Kansas Rosary Crusade at www.KansasRosaryCrusade.org

I invite you to learn more about the many layers of this issue. Visit www.KansasCatholic.org

Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!

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