



ATTACK ON WOMEN'S ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE OPPOSE SJR127

What SJR127 does – This resolution is the first step toward amending the State Constitution to take away the privacy protection as it pertains to women seeking abortions. Were Roe v. Wade to be overturned, and our State Constitution to be amended, women in Tennessee would not be protected under the current state constitutional right to privacy that ensures a woman can obtain an abortion.

The Senate passed SJR0127 24 to 8 on 3/23/09. **SJR127 is up for first reading on the House floor Monday, May 11.** While it seems likely that the bill will pass, **we ask that you continue to contact your house representatives and tell them to vote NO.** Today and onward we will continue to fight for women's right to privacy and reproductive freedom.

- This resolution is an all-out attack on the women of Tennessee and seeks to rob women of their right to make choices about their own health, safety and personal welfare.
- The Tennessee Constitution should not be amended to take away a woman's right to privacy as it pertains to her right to reproductive freedom.
- Historically, both the Tennessee and United States Constitutions have been amended to expand rights, not erode rights. These constitutional amendments would take away the rights of women to access safe and legal health care services.
- Currently, our State Constitution has a greater privacy protection than the Federal Constitution. If this resolution were to pass, and our State Constitution were to be amended, the strong privacy protection afforded by the State Constitution would be weakened.
- Despite what the anti-choice forces are telling legislators:
 - Abortion is already heavily regulated and not readily accessible for most women, particularly beyond the first trimester.
 - There are a number of laws regulating abortion including a state parental consent law and a state statute and Federal law banning late-term abortions.
 - Tennessee's medical malpractice statute has in place provisions requiring informed consent for any medical procedure. Failure to comply with these provisions under the law exposes the physician to significant liability for medical malpractice.
 - The number of abortions in Tennessee is declining - everyone agrees that this is a positive trend. We should all focus on how to prevent unwanted pregnancies and how to offer women who have unplanned pregnancies the resources and support they need.

Background: The introduction of this amendment is the result of the ACLU/PPFA victory in the Tennessee Supreme Court. We successfully challenged several restrictive provisions in the Tennessee Abortion Statute. In September 2000, the Tennessee Supreme Court ruled that several provisions were unconstitutional and that the Tennessee Constitution afforded women a right to privacy regarding their right to seek an abortion.

What you can do: Contact your State Senator and State Representative and urge them to Vote NO on this resolution that would amend the State Constitution to take away the right to abortion. The easiest way to contact your legislators is to visit <http://www.capitol.tn.gov>, go to "Find My Legislator," put in your address and click "search."