



LEGISLATIVE ALERT

ATTACK ON WOMEN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE – OPPOSE SJR127

On March 9, 2006, SJR127 passed the State Senate by a 24-9 vote. The resolution now goes to the House. Please tell your state representative to vote NO on SJR127.

WHAT SJR127 DOES – SJR127 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 amended, women in Tennessee would not be protected under the current state constitutional right to privacy that ensures a woman can obtain an abortion.

With the addition of Chief Justice Roberts and Justice Alito to the U. S. Supreme Court, there is a very real movement afoot to have the Supreme Court reconsider Roe. South Dakota, Mississippi, and other states are currently passing legislation to outlaw abortions except to save the life of the woman.

- SJR127 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. SJR127 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 SJR127 passes, and our State Constitution amended, the strong privacy protection afforded by the State Constitution would be weakened.

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.

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