
**Fact Sheet Regarding S49/A6260, Legislation that has
Expanded Abortion Services in New Jersey; January 11, 2022**

On October 10, 2020, The New Jersey Legislature introduced a controversial bill, S3030/A4848, the Reproductive Freedom Act (RFA). RFA would have expanded abortion services to include late-term abortions, state-funding for abortions, mandating employer-sponsored health insurance coverage for abortions, and allowing for non-physician medical providers to perform abortions, all of which the NJCC vigorously opposed.

After failing to pass S3030/A4848, the Legislature introduced, quickly advanced, and passed S49/A6260, which supporters claim is “pared” down, but in reality, differs very little from the original RFA.

Compounding our concern is the haste in which this bill was passed. The bill was introduced to the Senate for the first time on January 6, 2022, and voted on by both houses on January 10, 2022, **leaving only four days for public testimony and feedback**. January 10th was also the last voting session for the 219th New Jersey Legislature.

NJCC strenuously opposed S49/A6260 as well because it:

- Guarantees to every individual the right to reproductive autonomy, effectively declaring that children in the womb have no rights under New Jersey law; and allow for abortions at any time and for any reason, up until birth.
- Allows for non-physician healthcare professionals to perform abortion services.
- Will potentially force New Jersey’s healthcare workers with moral, religious, or ethical objections to perform or participate in abortions.
- Requires that NJDOBI conduct a study on whether an abortion should be covered by employer-sponsored health care coverage.
- Prohibits the future enactment of laws and regulations that attempt to restrict abortions or do not conform with the provisions and purposes of S49/A6260.

The steps we took to defeat this legislation included:

- Providing written testimony opposing the bill to both houses of the Legislature.
- Issued a statement of opposition on behalf of the seven Catholic bishops in New Jersey.
- Sent an Action Alert to our network of 15,000 individuals (see below) asking that they contact their state legislators to voice their opposition, followed by a second Alert that included the bishops’ statement. (11,000 emails resulted)
- Sent a press release asking Catholics and people of good will to oppose the bill to their state legislators.
- Posted an opposition statement and call to action on our website and Facebook page.
- Sent a personal letter of opposition to all 120 members of the New Jersey Legislature.
- Published Fact Sheet on website.

Sadly, the bill was signed into law on January 11, 2022.

Action we asked for from our network: Immediately contact your State Senator and General Assemblymembers to urge them to vote “NO” on S49/A6260. You can access the NJCC Action Alert by clicking [HERE](#). Go to Facebook and like the New Jersey Catholic Conference and share our post on your social media accounts and encourage others to do the same!