

## **Blue State Abortion Sanctuaries?**

Beginning with the State of New York and its “Catholic” Governor, so-called “Blue States” are lining up to become something like sanctuaries for the practice of abortion. Under the banner of preserving “reproductive rights,” governors and lawmakers in New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and other such politically “liberal” states are making or contemplating these moves in reaction to the recent appointments to the Supreme Court, among other factors.

In New York, the Governor and Legislature passed the most aggressive laws in state history to remove all criminality from abortion and to permit the procedure into the late stages of gestation.

Reporting in the National Review, Alexandra Desanctis writes that [Governor] Cuomo *casts aside his supposed Catholic convictions with greater ease than he takes them up*, [i.e. being against the Death Penalty]. *This week, on the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade, the governor signed into law the ghastly Reproductive Health Act (RHA). The legislation permits abortion up to 24 weeks of pregnancy — when abortion is never medically necessary and when children born prematurely are routinely able to survive outside the womb with careful tending — and it creates lenient exceptions essentially sanctioning elective abortion up to the moment of birth.*

*Cuomo’s dedication to “reproductive rights” allowed for the extinguishment of more than 82,000 unborn lives in his state in 2016 alone. About 2,000 of those unborn children were killed after 20 weeks of pregnancy, the threshold where advanced neonatal intensive care is just beginning to enable survival. Nearly 6,000 of those unborn children were killed in dilation and evacuation abortions, in which the fetus is, if it’s lucky, lethally injected before being cut apart and removed piece by piece from his or her mother.*

Now, the Boston Globe is reporting efforts in our own state to follow suit. Reporter Stephanie Ebbert writes that State Senator Harriet Chandler has produced a bill which is similar to the New York Law: *Chandler’s bill — called “An Act to Remove Obstacles to Expand Abortion Access,” or ROE Act*

*— would allow for later abortions in cases of fatal fetal anomalies. It would also remove the age and parental or judicial consent requirements for abortions.*

Herein, the language of personal “rights” is just a rhetorical smoke-screen to subvert the application of “right reason” to reality. How can it be that a baby is a baby only when the mother wants it, but it is a mother’s choice when the pregnancy is unwanted? This is just an absurdity.



Equally bad is the implied power to know the future with respect to children with fetal anomalies or those who simply came into being “by mistake.” There seems to be a certainty that the future will be disastrous, bleak and cruel if such a child is allowed to be born. And this, of course, ignores a history of humanity in which extraordinary things came from the lives of people hampered by disabilities.

Even in the worst-case scenario of conception through rape, the assumption is that the act of aborting the child is less traumatic than the act of bearing the child into the world. Here too, the view of the future is of a child who will only be a painful reminder of a hideous trauma rather than a possible miracle who could bring healing and blessing. Herein, there is no doubt that the woman has suffered an extreme assault on her being. The question concerns the right of the existing child to life and our arrogance concerning the prediction of outcomes.

Even if you are not religious, you can trace a history of “light” emerging from “darkness.” By faith we are particularly attuned to this paradox as we keep our gaze on the Cross of Christ. Let us pray that the smokescreen will clear from the eyes of our lawmakers and that their hardened hearts will be softened to the reality and sanctity of life in the womb and at all its stages.