



Legislation Text

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Res. No. 920

Resolution urging the United States Congress and the New York State Legislature to support a woman's right to abortion, and to oppose a ban on sex-selective abortions, which perpetuate racial stereotypes and undermine access to care.

By Council Members Chin, Rivera, Rosenthal, Adams, Ayala, Koslowitz, Cumbo, Gibson, Ampy-Samuel, Kallos, Menchaca, Levin, Louis, Rose, Lander and Barron

Whereas, In 2013 and 2014, sex-selective abortion bans were the second-most proposed abortion ban in the United States (U.S.); and

Whereas, Bans on sex-selective abortions were introduced in 26 states to date, and passed in 10 states, including Illinois, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, Kansas, North Carolina, North Dakota, Arizona, South Dakota, Indiana, Arkansas;; and

Whereas, In 2019, a bill to ban sex-selective abortions was introduced in the New York State Assembly; and

Whereas, A sex-selective abortion ban prohibits abortions performed on the basis of sex, and a doctor who performs such a procedure may face the threat of jail time, fines or lawsuits from a patient or the patient's spouse, parent, sibling or guardian; and

Whereas, A doctor or nurse who suspects a patient is seeking a sex-selective abortion is required to report them to authorities; and

Whereas, A sex-selective abortion ban is a restriction that scrutinizes a women's reasons for making the decision to terminate a pregnancy, thus opening the door to additional abortion bans based on a woman's personal choice; and

Whereas, Lawmakers across the country who advocate for sex-selective abortion bans perpetuate false and harmful racial stereotypes about women of color, especially Asian American women, including xenophobic claims that Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities do not value the lives of women; and

Whereas, Sex-selective abortion bans encourage racial profiling of women by medical providers, harm the doctor-patient relationship, potentially lead to the arbitrary delay or denial of reproductive health services, and further the stigmatization of women, particularly those of Asian American descent; and

Whereas, Some versions of sex-selective abortion bans have also included a race-selective ban that would ban abortions performed on the basis of race, allowing abortion providers to act on false and racist agendas; and

Whereas, In 2008, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017 and 2019, the Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act (PRENDA), a sex-selective abortion ban, was proposed in the U.S. Congress; and

Whereas, PRENDA highlighted India and China as countries where individuals seek out sex-selective abortions, thus implying that law enforcement would target and more closely scrutinize these communities in the U.S.; and

Whereas, New York City is home to the second-largest AAPI community in the country and they, along with reproductive health and justice advocates, have called for an end to such bans, condemning the deeply offensive, discriminatory rhetoric perpetuated by anti-choice advocates who support them; and

Whereas, With 70 percent of AAPI immigrants in the U.S. having limited English proficiency and facing a high insurance and public benefits enrollment gap, AAPI women should not have to face more barriers to reproductive health care; and

Whereas, Access to safe abortions is necessary to ensure that women can plan their lives and families without risking their health in a way that makes most sense for themselves and their families; now, therefore be

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Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York urges the United States Congress and the New York State Legislature to support a woman's right to abortion, and to oppose a ban on sex-selective abortions, which perpetuate racial stereotypes and undermine access to care.

LS #855
05/21/2019
CGR