



Focus on Religious Freedom

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New Jersey's Radical Pro-abortion Law Endangers Religious Liberty, Freedom of Speech

The state of New Jersey has just enacted a sweeping new law that, besides providing “a blank check for the abortion industry,” also “poses a serious danger” to the free speech and religious freedom of pro-life activists, warns New Jersey Right to Life Executive Director Marie Tasy.

The bill, S2260, passed by the state legislature and recently signed into law by the governor, “creates a new crime of ‘interference with reproductive health care services,’” Tasy explains. Ostensibly designed to prevent violence and obstruction—which are already illegal—the bill uses language equating those crimes with nonviolent pro-life prayer and public witness. By using such “inherently subjective” terms as ‘threat,’ ‘intimidate,’ and ‘coerce,’” Tasy points out, the law can be used to target “peaceful sidewalk counseling, prayer, holding signs, or simply offering help and alternatives outside a facility.”

These “can easily be labeled ‘intimidation’ by someone claiming to feel threatened” or by clinic personnel obstructing pro-life activity “leaving pro-life advocates open to criminal charges difficult to disprove and chilling to constitutionally protected expression.” “This law,” Tasy said, puts “the full power of state government behind abortion,” creating “vague new criminal penalties that can be used to silence those who object to these radical policies.”

As such, it will facilitate the abortion industry’s exploitation of women in crisis, preventing them from being offered information about life-affirming alternatives as they enter an abortion clinic.

“We will not stand by,” Tasy vows, “while New Jersey turns abortion into a protected industry and criminalizes those who oppose it. We will fight for the day when every woman facing an unexpected pregnancy is met with practical support, genuine alternatives, and the unshakable truth that both her life and her child’s life are worth defending.”

Learn more: <https://tinyurl.com/yc8prtjt> <https://tinyurl.com/3pafi9bh>

America’s Religious Freedom protects the right to choose life.