



As voters and citizens of Massachusetts...

We respectfully ask you to oppose the Act to Remove Obstacles and Expand Access to Abortion ("R.O.E.", S209/H3320) due to the following problematic items in its modification of MA General Law

- Reduces standards of medical care for women in Massachusetts by removing the requirement that late-term abortions be performed in hospitals with life-saving medical equipment (removal of section 12L in current law)
- Ignores guidelines for women's safety testified to by NARAL's expert doctors in KS, TX, VA, MO (*deposition by Dr. Nichols, Case 4:17-cv-00404-KGB Document 4 Filed 06/20/17 Arkansas*)
- Ignores guidelines set by insurance companies regarding women's health and safety during late-term abortions (CIGNA: <http://ow.ly/riOe50xa96l>)
- Removes protection for infants born alive during late-term abortions in Massachusetts (section 12P of current law)
- Endangers underage girls by removing the parental consent requirement and any adult supervision for those entering abortion facilities
- Re-allocates *Healthy Start Funds*, dedicated to supporting pregnant and parenting women and their children, to businesses that sell abortions instead

Over all, the "R.O.E." Act promotes a model of *access over safety*. When access trumps health, we have sacrificed a woman's life for an agenda that no longer has anything to do with her right to choose.

Please oppose "R.O.E.". Our citizens expect better. Our state can do better. Our children deserve better.

The ROE Act removes *10 sections* (12L through 12U) of current law. In place of some of the deleted text, new broad language would allow for late-term abortions to be performed "according to physician's best medical judgment . . . exercised in light of all factors," leaving open the opportunity for abortions to be performed for any reason and at any time up to birth; **so our viable infants are at risk, particularly those with diagnosed disabilities**, leading our society toward discriminatory practices against those who differ from what we might consider "normal."