

Vote to Repeal the Federal Refusal Clause (the Weldon Amendment)

We wanted to let you know that it is likely there will be a vote in the Senate to repeal the Federal Refusal Clause, also known as the Weldon Amendment, as early as this Thursday, the 21st of April. This is our chance to strike this egregious language from federal law.

You may recall that the federal refusal clause, or Weldon Amendment, became law as part of the FY 2005 Omnibus Appropriations Bill. The Weldon Amendment, was put into the House version of the Labor HHS Education Appropriations bill at the committee level when Rep. Weldon (R-FL) offered it as an amendment. The Senate version did not include the provision, but the final Omnibus Appropriations bill contained the federal refusal clause, despite the fact that the Senate had never considered this language, as a stand alone bill or as an amendment! Before the Senate passed the Omnibus bill, Senator Boxer (D-CA) got a commitment from Senator Frist (R-TN) that the Senate would hold an up or down vote before the end of April 2005 to repeal this provision. This is that vote.

For organizations that want to help, calls to Pro and Mixed Senators urging them to vote for the Boxer repeal of the Federal Refusal Clause/Weldon Amendment would be useful.

Below is the list so far of organizations opposed to the Federal Refusal Clause. If you haven't signed on yet-please do ASAP by contacting Laura Hessburg (lhessburg@nfprha.org). We need to make this list as long as possible.

Organizations Opposed to the Federal Refusal Clause

American Civil Liberties Union
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)
American Psychological Association
Association of Reproductive Health Professionals (ARHP)
Center for Reproductive Rights
Center for Women Policy Studies
NARAL Pro-Choice America
National Abortion Federation
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)
National Council for Jewish Women
National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Women's Law Center
People For the American Way
Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health(r)
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Population Connection
Presbyterian Church (USA)
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS)
The Alan Guttmacher Institute
The Central Conference of American Rabbis
The Rabbinical Assembly (Conservative Jewish)
The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
The Women's Rabbinic Network (Reform Jewish)
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations