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Committee Mtg _____	Resolution # _____
Introduced By _____	Regular Mtg _____
Seconded By _____	Special Mtg _____

APPROVAL/EXPRESS CONCERNS OVER AND SEEK REPEAL OF PROVISIONS IN THE NEW YORK STATE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ACT

WHEREAS, the Putnam County Legislature is charged to act to protect the health, safety, and well-being of all people within our County regardless of their age or stage of life; and

WHEREAS, on January 22, 2019, a new law entitled The Reproductive Health Act (the "RHA") was passed by both houses of the New York State Legislature, and signed by Governor Andrew Cuomo; and

WHEREAS, while proponents of reproductive rights once claimed to want to make abortion "safe, legal, and rare," passage of the RHA makes them less safe and will make them more common; and

WHEREAS, the RHA is not about "codifying *Roe vs. Wade*," as claimed, but about expanding abortion past twenty-four (24) weeks, when a child is already clearly viable and capable of pain and suffering; and

WHEREAS, the RHA opens the door broadly for abuse by allowing any health care practitioner – not just physicians – to perform an abortion as long as he or she acts in "good faith," rather than acting according to an objective medical standard of care; and

WHEREAS, the RHA repealed a section of New York's Public Health Law that required abortions performed after twelve (12) weeks of pregnancy be performed in a hospital; and

WHEREAS, while New York's Public Health Law formerly required a second physician to be on hand to care for a child twenty (20) weeks or older born alive during the course of an abortion, and required that such babies be provided "immediate legal protection under the laws of the state of New York," the RHA repealed such protection for a born-alive infant, essentially authorizing infanticide; and

WHEREAS, while New York law formerly allowed abortions after twenty-four (24) weeks of pregnancy when necessary to save a woman's life, the RHA now permits late-term abortion at any time throughout pregnancy – up to the moment of birth – when necessary to protect a patient's "health" – a term that is vague and undefined in the law, and which can be interpreted so broadly as to encompass just about anything, including stress, discomfort, or even inconvenience to the patient; and

Legislator Addonizio _____
 Legislator Albano _____
 Legislator Gouldman _____
 Legislator Jonke _____
 Legislator Montgomery _____
 Legislator Nacerino _____
 Legislator Sayegh _____
 Legislator Sullivan _____
 Chairman Castellano _____

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WHEREAS, according to Guttmacher Institute data, at least 12,000 late-term abortions take place every year in the United States, almost none of which are done out of medical necessity; and

WHEREAS, as reported by Diana Greene Foster of the University of California, San Francisco – the lead investigator on the largest-ever study of women seeking late-term abortions: 1) fetal abnormalities “make up a small minority of later abortions”; 2) abortions prompted by threats to the health of the mother are even rarer; and 3) women’s reasons for late-term abortions include many not related to rational conceptions of “health,” including travel considerations, expense, indecision, and disagreements with the father; and

WHEREAS, the RHA removed abortion-related crimes from the Penal Law, including violent criminal acts that injure or kill preborn children, as well as violent criminal acts where pregnant women are assaulted causing them to miscarry; and

WHEREAS, this removal of criminal sanctions by the RHA has already resulted in serious, unintended consequences that allow violent criminal acts to go unpunished, including one case where the Queens District Attorney was unable to charge a violent assailant with the stabbing death of a woman’s unborn baby (which stabbing also killed the mother), and another case where the Bronx District Attorney was forced to drop criminal charges against a violent assailant who stabbed a woman who survived but tragically killed her unborn baby; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature hereby expresses its deep concern and firm opposition to the aforementioned provisions of the RHA; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature hereby respectfully urges the County’s state legislative delegation – Senator Peter Harckham, Senator Susan Serino, Assemblyman Kevin Byrne, and Assemblywoman Sandra Galef – to introduce and support statewide legislation restoring the protections for unborn children formerly contained in the New York Penal Law and the New York Public Health Law that were repealed by the RHA, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Putnam County Legislature hereby respectfully urges Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to sign said bill(s) forthwith upon passage; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Putnam County Legislature shall forward a copy of this Resolution to each in the County’s state legislative delegation and to the Governor.

Legislator Addonizio _____
Legislator Albano _____
Legislator Gouldman _____
Legislator Jonke _____
Legislator Montgomery _____
Legislator Nacerino _____
Legislator Sayegh _____
Legislator Sullivan _____
Chairman Castellano _____