PETITION FOR ABORTION RIGHTS ACT OF 1972

Title: A BILL TO ENFORCE THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT OF FEMALES TO TERMINATE PREGNANCIES THAT THEY DO NOT WISH TO CONTINUE

IN THE BELIEF THAT ABORTION IS A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE, WE, THE UNDERSIGNED RESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, CALL UPON CONGRESS TO ENACT THE ABORTION RIGHTS ACT OF 1972.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that

- (a) The Congress finds and declares that
- (1) the constitutional right of privacy, embodied in the First, Third, Fourth, Fifth, and Ninth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States, and applicable to the States through the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment thereto, includes the right of any female to terminate a pregnancy that she does not wish to continue;
- (2) this right is a fundamental and inherent right, and is likewise not subject to infringement by the United States or by several States by virtue of the due process clause of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and the due process and equal protection clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment thereto;
- (3) there is no countervailing federal, State, or public interest of a compelling or other nature sufficient to justify the infringement of this right by the United States or any State.
- (b) In order to secure the constitutional rights set forth in subsection (a) and this subsection, and in the exercise of its power to enforce the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States, the Congress declares that it is necessary to prohibit the United States and the several States from enacting or enforcing any law, State constitutional provision, regulation, policy or other device which infringes upon the said right in any way, or which deprives any female of access to adequate medical assistance in the exercise of such right.
- SEC. 2. Neither the United States nor any State shall enact or enforce any law, State constitutional provision, regulation, policy, or other device which infringes the right of any female to terminate a pregnancy that she does not wish to continue, or which deprives any female of access to adequate medical assistance in the exercise of such right.
- SEC. 3. Notwithstanding the amount in controversy, and notwithstanding the provisions of section 2283 of title 28, United States Code, or any successor provision thereto, the district courts of the United States shall have jurisdiction over actions brought to enforce the provisions of this Act; including but not limited to jurisdiction to grant injunctive relief to enforce the provisions of this Act.
- SEC. 4. As used in this Act, the term "State" means any of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the territories and possessions of the United States.
- SEC. 5. If any provision of this Act or the application of any provision thereof to any person or circumstance is judicially determined to be invalid, the remainder of this Act or the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected by such determination.

SEC. 6. This Act may be cited as the "Abortion Rights Act of 1972."

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