



new york state RIGHT TO LIFE COMMITTEE, INC.

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Stop New York State Taxpayer Funding of Abortion-on-Demand An Optional Medicaid Expenditure

The New York State Department of Health reports that 46,653, or 40.1%, of the total *Induced Abortions* in New York State in 2007 (120,554 abortions) were paid for by Medicaid (http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/vital_statistics/2007/table19.htm 3/30/09).

The Guttmacher Institute reports that the average charge for a standard first-trimester suction and curettage abortion at 10 weeks' gestation was \$468 nationwide in 2001 (<http://www.guttmacher.org/in-the-know/cost.html> 3/30/09). Assuming a mere 1% inflationary rise in cost per year brings the 2007 estimated cost to \$497. In 2007, 76.7% of NYS abortions were standard "S&C" abortions. RU-486, or so-called "medical" abortions, cost more at \$487 in 2001 (est. \$517 in 2007). Second- and third-trimester abortions and other methods (14.5% of NY abortions) are substantially more costly. It can be estimated that somewhat more than \$24 million of New York taxpayers' money paid for abortions in 2007.

The Medicaid program established by the United States government provides for the federal government to contribute 50% of public assistance medical costs, with state and local government to contribute the other 50% of costs. Federal taxpayer money by law is designated to pay for abortions only in cases of rape or incest, or to save a mother's life. New York chooses voluntarily (one of only four states) to *not* enforce the eligibility requirements for receiving federal reimbursement for Medicaid abortion. New York taxpayers are instead forced to effectively pay for abortion-on-demand through Medicaid, forfeiting 50% that the Federal government would otherwise cover.

At least twenty-six states and the District of Columbia prohibit public funding of abortion except in the cases of rape, incest, and endangerment of the mother's life. In states where this law is in effect, the abortion rate for Medicaid recipients is twice as high as the rate for other women. Where no such law is in place (as in New York), the abortion rate for Medicaid recipients is four times as high. New York's abortion-on-demand Medicaid system fuels more abortions, leaving a trail of loss and tragedy for New York's poor women and a systematic eradication of economically disadvantaged children.

There is a vast discrepancy between what the federal government and most states consider necessary and reasonable to pay for with public money, and what New York State expects the taxpayer to fund. The federal government paid for 132 abortions in 1998. New Yorkers are paying for 46,500+ per year.

Approximately 88% of abortions in New York State are performed in free-standing abortion facilities, not in hospitals. Medicaid funds should be used for true medical problems in this state. Abortion is not health care.