



new york state RIGHT TO LIFE COMMITTEE, INC.

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NO MORE SEX SELECTION ABORTION IN NEW YORK STATE! S.5033 (Ball) /A.7610 (Crespo)

New York State Right to Life strongly supports legislation sponsored by Senator Greg Ball and Assemblyman Marcos Crespo to prohibit sex selection abortion in New York State. Sex selection abortion is used to prevent the birth of a child of an undesired sex: abortion is chosen solely based on an unborn baby's gender.

Sex selection abortion is a serious problem in parts of the world, especially in China, India and Korea. Parents in those countries have a strong preference for boys, as population figures dramatically demonstrate, and many pursue this preference through sex selection abortions. **The same trends are evident among families from those countries who live in the U.S.**

A June 2009 New York Times story cited several studies showing that Americans of Chinese, Indian and Korean descent retain a preference for sons and sometimes choose abortion because of it.¹ The article specifically notes one study that found a **disproportionate number of boys among Chinese New Yorkers**, compared to the national average for Chinese families.²

In addition, a study in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences that examined the ratio of boys to girls born to Asian-American families in the U.S. demonstrated that couples who have a girl first become increasingly likely to abort future daughters to get the son they want.

*"Using the 2000 U.S. Census, we find that the sex ratio of the oldest child to be normal, but that of subsequent children to be heavily male if there was no previous son. The sex ratio of the second child was 1.17 if the first child was a girl. At third parity, boys outnumbered girls by 1.51:1 if the two previous children were girls."*³

"DNA Gender Kits" identifying the gender of babies as early as seven weeks post-conception with a blood sample, are now available online. In an age of "designer" babies, some parents are tempted to "screen" for the child they want, and then turn to abortion if the child is the "wrong" sex.

A study on son preference and sex-selection abortion among Indian immigrants published this year found that familial pressure, verbal and even physical abuse often preceded the abortion of a daughter.⁴

A 2006 Zogby International poll showed that 86 percent of Americans support a ban on sex-selection abortion. The practice has already been banned in Illinois, Pennsylvania and Oklahoma and Arizona.

Taking the life of an unborn child simply because of her gender is the ultimate form of discrimination. No nation committed to women's equality and human dignity can tolerate this shocking, discriminatory disregard for its own children.

Sex selection abortion is morally and culturally devastating, and it has no place in our state.

"...Unfortunately with technology, parents are able to use sonograms to determine the sex of a baby, and to abort girl children simply because they'd rather have a boy." — Hillary Clinton, U.S. Secretary of State and defender of abortion on demand.

1. Roberts S. U.S. Births Hint at Bias for Boys in Some Asians. *New York Times*. 15 June 2009. http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/15/nyregion/15babies.html?_r=3&pagewanted=1&hp.

2. Abrevaya J. Are There Missing Girls in the United States? Evidence from Birth Data. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*. 1:2 (2009) 1-34.

3. Almond D, Edlund L. Son-biased sex ratios in the 2000 United States Census. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*. 105:15 (2008) 5681-5682. <http://www.pnas.org/content/105/15/5681.full.pdf%20html>.

4. Puri S, Adams V, Ivey S, Nachtigall RD. "There is such a thing as too many daughters, but not too many sons": A qualitative study of son preference and fetal sex selection among Indian immigrants in the United States. *Social Science & Medicine*. Epub; article in print (2011) 1-8