

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 3

Introduced by Assembly Member Cohn

December 6, 2004

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 3— Relative to the 32nd anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 3, as introduced, Cohn. Reproductive rights: Roe v. Wade.

This measure would memorialize the Congress and the President of the United States to protect and uphold the intent and substance of the United States Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade, relating to reproductive rights, and to encourage all Americans to participate in the national celebration, "The March for Women's Lives," in recognition of that decision's historic importance in promoting women's rights.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, January 22, 2005, is the 32nd anniversary of the
2 historic United States Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade
3 (1973) 410 U.S. 113, guaranteeing women reproductive rights,
4 an occasion deserving of celebration and special public
5 commendations; and

6 WHEREAS, The 1973 decision in Roe v. Wade established
7 constitutionally based limits on the power of states to restrict the
8 right of a woman to choose to terminate a pregnancy; and

9 WHEREAS, Roe v. Wade is one of the most significant
10 Supreme Court decisions in the 20th century promoting women's
11 rights; and

1 WHEREAS, Reproductive rights are central to the ability of
2 women to exercise their full rights under federal and state law;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, It is the right of every American woman to
5 determine when, if, and with whom to have children, and how
6 many children to have; and

7 WHEREAS, Women’s ability to control their reproductive
8 lives has facilitated their equal participation in the economic and
9 social life of the nation; and

10 WHEREAS, The state should not interfere with a woman’s
11 decision to either bear a child or terminate a pregnancy through a
12 safe and legal abortion; and

13 WHEREAS, Women should not be forced into illegal and
14 dangerous abortions, as they often were prior to the Roe v. Wade
15 decision; and

16 WHEREAS, During the first half of the 20th century, illegal
17 abortions accounted for about 50 percent of all maternal deaths;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Roe v. Wade has reduced significantly the
20 mortality rate for women terminating their pregnancies; and

21 WHEREAS, Roe v. Wade continues to protect the health and
22 freedom of women throughout the United States; now, therefore,
23 be it

24 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
25 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California
26 memorializes the Congress and the President of the United States
27 to do all of the following:

28 (1) To protect and uphold the intent and substance of the 1973
29 United States Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade.

30 (2) Encourage all Americans to participate in the national
31 celebration, “The March for Women’s Lives,” on April 25, 2005,
32 to take place in Washington, D.C., in recognition of the Roe v.
33 Wade decision’s historic importance in promoting women’s
34 rights; and be it further

35 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit
36 copies of this resolution to the President of the United States and
37 to all Members of the Congress of the United States

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