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Assembly of Orthodox bishops in America issues statement against NY abortion law



A new “Statement on the Sanctity of Life” was published on the site of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America” yesterday, in the aftermath of Gov. Andrew Cuomo of New York signing into law a bill that allows for abortions up to the moment of birth, thus codifying and protecting Roe v. Wade in the event that it would be overturned by the Supreme Court.

In its statement, the Assembly categorically denounces the new law while reminding that the Church is always ready to support women who are considering abortion and to help them find viable alternatives.

The statement reads in full:

The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America affirms the sanctity of life based on the firm conviction that life begins at the moment of conception. The Assembly remains steadfast in its conviction that any interference in the development of life is a serious issue, and therefore it regularly participates in a variety of relevant events and also releases pertinent statements on the topic.

While recognizing that there are rare but serious medical instances where mother and child may require extraordinary actions, the Assembly of Bishops is deeply concerned that the taking of innocent life through abortion has become an acceptable cultural norm. This phenomenon – increasingly prevalent throughout contemporary societies – was exacerbated by a recent law of the New York State Senate (Bill S.240). The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America categorically denounces these adverse developments that allow for abortion, under certain unjustifiable circumstances, even within the third trimester of existence.

The Assembly of Bishops further reminds the faithful that Christ is a beacon of hope in this challenging world. Accordingly, the Church is always prepared and willing to support women who are considering abortion to find alternative avenues to alleviate any burden, physical and spiritual. The Church is ever a mother – loving, understanding, nurturing, praying, and protecting all human life.