

1 H.508

2 Introduced by Representatives Mrowicki of Putney, Jerman of Essex,
3 Krowinski of Burlington, Bartholomew of Hartland, Burke of
4 Brattleboro, Copeland-Hanzas of Bradford, Cross of Winooski,
5 Dakin of Chester, Fay of St. Johnsbury, McCormack of
6 Burlington, O'Sullivan of Burlington, Partridge of Windham,
7 Pugh of South Burlington, Sharpe of Bristol, Taylor of Barre
8 City, Till of Jericho, Waite-Simpson of Essex, Wizowaty of
9 Burlington, and Young of Glover

10 Referred to Committee on

11 Date:

12 Subject: Health; abortion; right to abortion

13 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to statutorily
14 recognize the right to have an abortion.

15 An act relating to recognizing the right to have an abortion

16 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

17 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

18 The Vermont General Assembly finds:

19 (1) On January 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Roe v.*
20 *Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), established that the U.S. Constitution protects a

1 woman's right to privacy and limits government interference with medical
2 decisions.

3 (2) The decision in *Roe v. Wade* ensures that abortion remains a safe and
4 legal procedure for a woman to consider, if and when she needs it.

5 (3) As the State of Vermont pursues major health care reform, it should
6 be a public policy goal to enhance the health of all citizens, including women
7 of all ages, and to strengthen individuals and families by encouraging and
8 promoting access to comprehensive family planning services and to prenatal
9 support services that help ensure that planned pregnancies remain healthy
10 throughout their entire term.

11 (4) The General Assembly's repeal of the dated and restrictive
12 13 V.S.A. chapter 3 would remove the statutory prohibition on abortion
13 procedures in Vermont and serve as an important legislative action in support
14 of a woman's reproductive rights as well as help a health care provider to
15 perform an abortion procedure without fear of criminal liability.

16 (5) Abortion is a deeply personal and often complex decision for a
17 woman, and therefore decisions about whether to choose adoption, end a
18 pregnancy, or raise a child must be left to a woman, her family, and her faith,
19 with the counsel of her doctor or health care provider.

20 (6) Violence against providers of family planning services and
21 restrictions on access to abortion endanger the lives of women.

