

National Abortion Rights Action League

825 15th Street N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Friend,

Abortion will soon be outlawed.

Even abortion in cases of rape or incest, and many widely practiced forms of birth control -- including the IUD and some forms of the Pill -- will also be outlawed.

Outlawed. Unless you and I act.

For the first time since abortion was legalized by the Supreme Court in 1973 we have the President of the United States and influential leaders in both parties in Congress advocating the prohibition of abortion and the outlawing of many forms of birth control.

Just look at the changes in leadership that resulted when the Republicans gained control of the U.S. Senate and the White House and you'll understand why so many reliable political analysts here in Washington feel that the Constitutional Amendment banning abortion has a good chance of passing Congress.

-- Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT), chairs the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on the Constitution, the body which begins the process of amending the Constitution. Senator Hatch replaced pro-choice Senator Birch Bayh (D-IN) as chair of that that Subcommittee. Senator Hatch is a longtime proponent of a Constitutional Amendment to ban all abortions, and he has placed this item high on his legislative agenda.

-- Senator John East (R-NC) now chairs the Subcommittee on Separation of Powers. A strident opponent of abortion, East held early hearings on "when life begins" -- the infamous Hyde/Helms bill which would ban abortions and some birth control methods, and allow states to circumvent the 1973 Supreme Court decision.

-- Senator Strom Thurmond (R-SC) took over from Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA) as chair of the full Judiciary Committee. Senator Thurmond has a long-standing opposition to abortion except in cases of rape, incest, and life endangerment. He will not stand in the way of bringing a Constitutional Amendment or the Hyde/Helms bill to the floor of the Senate.

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- President Reagan campaigned on a platform favoring a Constitutional Amendment to ban abortion, and has appointed anti-abortion leaders to such key positions as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Resources.
- For the first time in history the anti-abortion forces have strong proponents both in the White House and in key leadership posts in the Senate.

In short, what many people felt was only a mild threat before the 1980 elections has now become a very real and imminent threat.

Those who have been working night and day to outlaw abortion are not about to miss what they see as their Big Opportunity. The National Right to Life Committee, the Moral Majority, the National Conservative Political Action Committee, and dozens of other Far Right groups have mounted an all-out effort to make sure that the new Congress and the new President move quickly on both the Constitutional Amendment and the Hyde/Helms bill before our side can get organized.

Consequently, both anti-abortion measures have an excellent chance of becoming the law of the land.

We must be ready to defend against these measures in the Congress and in the states.

We simply cannot take it for granted that Congress will not pass both measures.

Thirty-eight states must ratify the Constitutional Amendment to make it part of the Constitution. Based on past experience and our analysis of the voting patterns in the November elections, we expect that nineteen states will ratify the anti-abortion Amendment almost immediately after it is passed by Congress. Thus, the principal line of defense against this Amendment must be built in the states.

We don't have a minute to lose. The effort to organize in key states is already underway and must continue to expand. That's why I'm writing to ask for your help.

While the opinion polls clearly show that four out of five Americans reject our opponents' goal of outlawing all abortions, public opinion alone will not be enough. Time and time again the majority has been proven ineffective against the vociferous, well-organized, well-financed band of moralists who seek to impose their will on the rest of us.

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If we are to defend against both anti-abortion measures, we must wake up the majority. We must alert citizens to the dangers ahead. We must organize them into an effective political force that politicians listen to.

The National Abortion Rights Action League, the nation's only legislative and political action group organized exclusively to protect abortion rights, has already begun the mammoth task of organizing the majority in key states.

But, experience and organizing skills are not enough. An effort of this magnitude requires the commitment and financial support of thousands and thousands of freedom-loving citizens like you.

When you join with the 115,000 women and men who are already members of NARAL, you will be offering your vital support to a professional, hard-hitting citizens' effort which has already proven its effectiveness.

During the 1980 election campaigns, NARAL pioneered and perfected a grass roots organizing effort aimed at mobilizing pro-choice activists in key states and Congressional races. Despite the nationwide "conservative" landslide, we proved that where concerned citizens were organized through our IMPACT '80s program the effort paid off.

Against tremendous odds, NARAL and the NARAL Political Action Committee were able to defeat Far Right organizing efforts in several key contests. This fact demonstrates the effect of pro-choice organizing and provides a note of optimism as pro-choice citizens face the grim battle which lies ahead.

Defending against a Constitutional Amendment and a Hyde/Helms statute to ban abortion will require skill and stamina. In my twelve years of working to defend abortion rights, I have never seen the opposition so well-organized, so well-financed, so fer-
vent.

It's very difficult to describe the almost fanatic zeal which drives the self-righteous anti-abortion forces. But, I assure you, it's real and frightening.

To give you some flavor of what we're up against, I'm enclosing a post-election "victory" story which appeared in the official publication of the National Right to Life Committee.

If the anti-abortion forces get their way, you and I will have only ourselves to blame. For, clearly, the overwhelming majority of Americans are opposed to the effort to outlaw abor-

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tion through a Constitutional Amendment or Hyde/Helms. But, as we have seen time and time again, mere "opposition" is not enough. We must be well-organized ... well-financed...We must have political clout.

Organizing the majority to build political clout is what NARAL is all about. Our task is to alert and mobilize the majority so the politicians will listen.

You can help continue and expand this massive and vital mobilization of the majority today by becoming a member of NARAL.

Your contribution will be used to place professional organizers in key states to begin training pro-choice activists ... to build coalitions and citizens' groups in key state legislative districts ... to set up computer banks, telephone chains and action alert networks that can be responsive and effective at a moment's notice ... to develop and implement an aggressive media strategy to activate the pro-choice majority.

Right now, those who seek to impose their beliefs on you and me are mobilizing at the grass roots level. They smell victory and they're not leaving anything to chance. Neither can we.

The day the Constitutional Amendment is passed by Congress will be a sad day indeed. But, you can help it from becoming a tragic day by helping to put in place the defenses which will be necessary to block the anti-abortion fanatics.

Please don't put this letter aside thinking that someone else will help and you don't have to. The stakes are simply too high to leave it to another.

Please join with us today.

Sincerely,



Karen Mulhauser
Executive Director



**national
RIGHT TO LIFE**

NEWS

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Now is the Time for the Human Life Amendment

By Ladd Alexander

The time is now for our Human Life Amendment. Now is the time to insist upon the submission of our Human Life Amendment to the American electorate, before the prolife movement loses its victorious edge, before campaign promises are forgotten, before the anti-life opposition has any chance to regroup and before newly elected members of Congress have the opportunity to become too comfortable.

Never before have we had the kind of support in our executive and legislative branches of government that we now enjoy. There is simply no reason to delay further! Prolifers are in the position today to orchestrate the terms and timing of the submission of a Human Life Amendment.

We have endured eight heart-breaking years of working and praying and hoping.

We've been forced to endure unborn babies being mercilessly slaughtered and their bodies disposed of like so much garbage. We've been forced to pay our taxes and see those tax dollars used to pay for killing unborn innocent children. We've been arrested, convicted and jailed while abortion killers remain free. We've been ignored, scoffed at and vilified. We've been discredited in every way possible, not only by abortionists and their camp followers but by government agents and agencies as well. We've been denied access to the media and consistently ignored in our appeals.

We have continued in our fight only because we had to — not because we had the energy or the time or the money — simply because our conscience would let us do no less. **We must not now bask in the glory of incomplete victory and allow our complete victory to slip away.** On the contrary, between now and the time Congress convenes

in 1981 we must deluge the offices of every U.S. congressman and senator with the demand that the submission of a Human Life Amendment take first priority in the course of congressional business.

If we will all cooperate in this effort, I am confident that we can have our Human Life Amendment approved by the Congress and submitted to and ratified by the 38 states within 12 months. Let's plan now to use the March for Life, to be held in Washington this January 22, as our kick-off for ratification and plan to attend the March for Life event 12 months later for the greatest prolife victory celebration in the history of mankind.

I look forward to seeing you in Washington in January of 1981 and 1982.

(Mr. Alexander is a member of the National Right to Life executive committee, and the Louisiana director to the NRLC.)