



January 24, 2019

### **NEW YORK SENATE PASSES BILL LEGALIZING ABORTIONS UP TO BIRTH**

**Father, open the eye of those who are promoting abortion. Convict those who stand in the way of ending abortion in this country.**

***A person may think their own ways are right, but the LORD weighs the heart. ([Prv 21:2](#))***

The New York Senate passed a radical pro-abortion bill Tuesday that would allow unborn babies to be aborted for basically any reason up to birth.

Metro reports the bill passed after abortion activists pushed it for more than a decade in New York. Until now, it failed to pass the state Senate because of Republican lawmakers, but the November election put pro-abortion Democrats in control of both houses.

The vote was 38-24.

UPDATE: Governor Andrew Cuomo has signed the bill into law.

A New York Public Radio reporter said she heard a voice shout, “May almighty God have mercy on this state!” in the Senate soon after the vote.

The legislation goes beyond Roe v. Wade, allowing abortions even when the Supreme Court has said states may regulate them, according to the pro-life leaders. . . .

The bill appears to restrict late-term abortions, but it adds a broad “health” exception for abortions after 24 weeks. The exception would allow women to abort unborn babies up to nine months of pregnancy for “age, economic, social and emotional factors, rather than the biological definition of ‘health’ that normally comes to mind,” according to New York Right to Life....

New York State Right to Life predicted that the bill will lead to the suppression of pro-lifers’ freedom of speech and conscience, as well. Doctors and nurses who refuse to help abort unborn babies could lose their jobs, and pro-life advocates could be persecuted for just speaking out for life.

Already one of the most pro-abortion states in America, New York would become even more pro-abortion if the law passes. In 2016, 82,189 unborn babies were aborted in New York, with about half

being taxpayer-funded, according to the local news. Of those babies, 1,763 were at least 20 weeks, meaning they may have been viable outside the womb.

Meanwhile, a new poll indicates this radical pro-abortion legislation is not what Americans want. According to a national poll conducted by Marist University, three in four Americans (75 percent) say abortion should be limited to – at most – the first three months of pregnancy. This includes most of those who identify as Republicans (92 percent), Independents (78 percent) and a majority of Democrats (60 percent). It also includes more than six in 10 (61 percent) who identify as “pro-choice” on abortion.

The Marist Poll follows on the heels of a May 2018 Gallup poll which found that 53 percent of Americans oppose all or most abortions. (Excerpts from Micaiah Bilger on [Life News](#))

### **APPEALS COURT SIDES WITH TRUMP IN TRANSGENDER MILITARY CASE**

**Lord, help our country regain a sense of right and wrong. Thank you for this small victory for morality and common sense. May the court ultimately uphold a ban on transgender troops. Don't miss the editor's note below for an interesting perspective.**

***This day the Lord thy God hath commanded thee to do these statutes and judgments: thou shalt therefore keep and do them with all thine heart, and with all thy soul. ([Deut 26:16 KJV](#))***

As you consider the possibility of transgender military, read this article about all the medical conditions that can keep a person out of the military.

The court's decision, though, does not apply to the policy's legality, or President Trump's authority to issue the ban. The decision was simply related to the policy's enforcement while the case continues to go through litigation at the lower courts.

The ruling came after the Justice Department requested that the Supreme Court bypass the lower courts and decide the issue—a request the high court rejected on Tuesday, instead directing the case to work its way through the appeals and lower courts.

Justice Department spokeswoman Kerri Kupec praised the Supreme Court's ruling in a statement Tuesday.

"We are pleased the Supreme Court granted stays in these cases, clearing the way for the policy to go into effect while litigation continues. The Department of Defense as the authority to create and implement personnel policies it has determined are necessary to defend our nation," Kupec said. "Due to lower courts issuing nationwide injunctions, our military had been forced to maintain a prior policy that poses a risk to military effectiveness and lethality for over a year."

But Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez said the new policy goes "against our values as Americans" and "makes us less safe."

The Department of Defense had barred military service by transgender people until former President Barack Obama's administration began to allow transgender people already in the military to serve openly. Former Defense Secretary Ash Carter suggested the services develop policies to allow people already identifying as transgender to newly join the military, and if they meet physical, medical and other standards, and have been stable in their identified genders for 18 months....

"Our military must be focused on decisive and overwhelming victory and cannot be burdened with the tremendous medical costs and disruption that transgender in the military would entail," Trump tweeted on July 26, 2017.

Prior to Trump's policy change, transgender troops had been able to receive medical care and start formally changing their gender identifications in the Pentagon's personnel system. Key concerns surrounding the Obama-era policy included whether currently enlisted troops have had medical or other issues that cause delays or problems with their ability to deploy or meet physical or other standards for their jobs.

Earlier this month, a federal appeals court sided with the Trump administration, ruling that it was wrong to block the Pentagon from implementing plans to block the service of transgender individuals. The appeals court ruling said the military's plan appears to rely on the "considered professional judgment" of "appropriate military officials." It noted that the plan "appears to permit some transgender individuals to serve in the military." The Associated Press contributed to this report. (Excerpt from Brooke Singman, Bill Mears article on [Fox News](#))

Editor's Note: As you consider the possibility of transgender military, read this article about all the medical conditions that can keep a person out of the military: <https://www.military.com/join-armed-forces/disqualifiers-medical-conditions.html>. The list of potential medical disqualifiers is vast. It is amazing that the surgeries and medications involved in "changing" genders doesn't immediately disqualify for military service.

What do you think? Leave a comment below.

## **PROPHECY AND TRUTH OF THE MODERN CHURCH**

**Pray for the Church and ask God to speak to you personally about what He is calling You to do.**

***Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. (Rom 14:19)***

"More and more I feel that the people of ill will have used time much more effectively than have the people of good will. We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the hateful words and actions of the bad people but for the appalling silence of the good people. Human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability; it comes through the tireless efforts of men willing to be co-workers with God, and without this 'hard work, time itself becomes an ally of the forces of social stagnation. We must use time creatively, in the knowledge that the time is always ripe to do right. Now is the time to make real the promise of democracy and transform our pending national elegy into a creative psalm of

brotherhood.

"In deep disappointment I have wept over the laxity of the church. But be assured that my tears have been tears of love. There can be no deep disappointment where there is not deep love. Yes, I love the church. How could I do otherwise? I am in the rather unique position of being the son, the grandson and the great-grandson of preachers. Yes, I see the church as the body of Christ. But, oh! How we have blemished and scarred that body through social neglect and through fear of being nonconformists. There was a time when the church was very powerful in the time when the early Christians rejoiced at being deemed worthy to suffer for what they believed.

"In those days the church was not merely a thermometer that recorded the ideas and principles of popular opinion; it was a thermostat that transformed the mores of society. Whenever the early Christians entered a town, the people in power became disturbed and immediately sought to convict the Christians for being "disturbers of the peace" and "outside agitators"" But the Christians pressed on, in the conviction that they were "a colony of heaven," called to obey God rather than man. Small in number, they were big in commitment. They were too God-intoxicated to be "astronomically intimidated." By their effort and example, they brought an end to such ancient evils as infanticide and gladiatorial contests.

"Things are different now. So often the contemporary church is a weak, ineffectual voice with an uncertain sound. So often it is an archdefender of the status quo. If today's church does not recapture the sacrificial spirit of the early church, it will lose its authenticity, forfeit the loyalty of millions, and be dismissed as an irrelevant social club with no meaning for the twentieth century. Every day I meet young people whose disappointment with the church has turned into outright disgust."

These words were excerpted from Martin Luther King, Jr.'s letter to fellow clergymen from the Birmingham Jail nearly 56 years ago. Looking back, they are as prophetic today as they were truth in April 1963. As Romans 12:21 exhorts "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good," the "Church" needs to wake up because what King wrote is happening. (Used with permission. [Bill Wilson, Daily Jot](#))

## **PERSECUTION MOUNTING**

**Lord, we as the Church pray for those being persecuted for Your name sake. Comfort them in their hour of need. May the eyes of the persecutor be opened to see the error of thy way.**

***And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.***  
**[\(Matt 10:22\)](#)**

Authoritarianism, religious nationalism, and spreading Islamic extremism fueled the unprecedented growth of persecution against Christians last year, according to a new report from Open Doors. The organization released its annual World Watch List on Wednesday.

The report, which tracks the 50 most oppressive countries for Christians to live in, found 245 million believers now face high levels of persecution, up by 30 million since the last list came out a year ago.

Persecution grew worse in many countries, including India and China, while others, like Russia and Morocco, joined the list for the first time.

Open Doors pointed to a number of new tactics against Christians, including the use of technology as a tool for persecution. It also found Christian women and girls face unparalleled danger.

“The data proves conclusively that Christian women are the most exploited group on the face of the earth today,” Open Doors USA CEO David Curry said, noting persecutors target women for forced marriage, sexual violence, abduction, trafficking, and more.

Gender-specific persecution is the easiest and most effective means of religious oppression, said Helen Fisher, the global gender persecution specialist for Open Doors. She said Christian women face a “double vulnerability,” noting, “The ease comes from the fact that persecuting them blends in. You don’t see it. It looks like something any other woman might experience: touching in the streets, discrimination in education, travel bans, domestic violence. And yet, these are all avenues to be able to specifically target the Christian woman.”

Researchers with Open Doors found that in the five worst countries—North Korea, Afghanistan, Somalia, Libya, and Pakistan—Christian women suffered more than men due to the use of sexual violence as a means of power and control. Hundreds of Christian girls are abducted, raped, and forcibly married to Muslims each year in Pakistan alone. But gender-specific persecution of religious minority women is not isolated to those five countries, as survivors of Islamic terror groups such as Boko Haram in Nigeria and ISIS in Syria and Iraq can attest....

“A church must be a sacred place in China and everywhere else,” Curry said. (Excerpts from Julia A. Seymour article in [WORLD](#))