



**NATIONAL ORGANIZATION  
FOR WOMEN  
NEW YORK CITY**

**MEMO OF SUPPORT – A1709A ( Reyes) S1066 passed (Mayer)**

## **PROTECTING NEW YORK’S LICENSED CLINICIANS WHO PROVIDE TELEMEDICINE ABORTION SERVICES TO OUT-OF-STATE PATIENTS**

As women across the country have lost access to legal abortion after the fall of *Roe v. Wade*, they are turning to telemedicine care from providers in states where abortion remains legal and medication abortion is available.

Throughout the more than 23 years that medication abortion has been used in the United States, it has been proven to be overwhelmingly **safe and effective**. In 2022, medication abortion which can be taken at home, under the supervision of a doctor, now accounts for 53% of all abortion care in the US. Telemedicine abortion with pills by mail became widespread during the COVID pandemic and is now available in **25 states and D.C.**

Since the **fall of *Roe*** last summer, millions of people across the country now live in states with no local access to abortion care. **Thirteen states** now fully ban abortion and **18 states** have laws restricting telemedicine abortion, despite an **FDA decision** in December of 2021 allowing it. The reliance on medication abortion has been critical and its usage will continue to grow.

Assembly bill **A1709A** and S1066 (passed) would allow New York licensed clinicians to provide telemedicine abortion services to patients beyond the state’s borders and extends legal protection to those doctors, clinicians and pharmacists from criminal prosecution in New York, as well as loss of license or malpractice insurance. It will protect medical professionals from attempts at extradition or attempts at issuing subpoenas for patient medical records by law enforcement outside of New York.

Doctors and clinicians in New York have been operating under a fast-moving landscape of changing laws, court battles and threats as they work to meet the needs of women

living in states that have banned abortion. Anti-abortion opponents, legislators and law enforcement in those states are attempting to control what and how citizens access abortion outside the borders of states that are hostile to abortion rights. They are devising ways to legally restrict access to abortion services throughout the country, not just in their state, and targeting medical professionals is a key tactic.

The New York law would mean people living in states with abortion bans can receive telemedicine abortion care from New York-based medical providers and obtain FDA-approved abortion pills promptly by mail, with ongoing telemedicine support from the prescribing clinician during the abortion process.

“The New York legislature has an ethical and moral obligation to do everything in its awesome power to protect doctors, pharmacists and clinicians who are answering the call to help women find timely medical care they seek and who are living up to New York lawmaker’s pronouncements that New York is a sanctuary state for abortion care,” said Sonia Ossorio, Executive Director, [National Organization for Women - New York City](#).

“The situation is dire in the restricted states,” said Dr. Linda Prine, co-founder and former medical director of the [Reproductive Health Access Project](#) and an organizer of Health Care Across Borders, formed to support the legislation. “Funding is less available and many people are now in the second trimester before they can get what they need to travel for appointments, or get pills from overseas or via community networks. This law will solve a piece of the abortion access problem. Before *Roe* fell, 75 percent of people got their abortions under eight weeks. Early abortion is safer.”