

OPPOSE HB 2124: Virginia's Abortion Ban Chief Patron Del. Marshall (R – 13)

House Bill 2124, introduced by Del. Robert Marshall (R-13), is a “trigger bill”, intended to go into effect if the Supreme Court overturns *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark 1973 decision legalizing abortion. If that happens, abortion would become a felony in Virginia, both for the woman seeking it and the person providing it. This law would have the Commonwealth revert back to a law passed June 30, 1970, which only allows abortion if a woman’s life is in danger. There is no exemption for the woman’s health, rape, or incest.

Why Oppose HB 2124?

- Making abortion illegal will not reduce the number of abortions that will take place. Preventing unintended pregnancy is the only way to reduce abortion.
- There is no exception for the woman’s health, rape or incest.
- Decisions about reproductive health should be made by a woman, her doctor and anyone else she opts to be a part of the discussion.
- Women seeking illegal abortions could be forced to turn to potentially dangerous providers. In the years before *Roe*, women seeking abortions were routinely subjected to rape and sexual assault at the hands of male providers. The best way to prevent unintended pregnancies and reduce the need for abortion is to make sure women, couples and teens have access to family planning services.
- The majority of Americans oppose criminalizing or otherwise banning abortion, and legislators who support this bill are totally out of touch with the mainstream.
- This bill is especially shocking after voters in South Dakota rejected this kind of extremism. Two senators in South Dakota who supported their abortion ban were voted out of office.

In Virginia

- According to the most recent Quality of Life survey (2004) conducted by the Center for Survey Research at Virginia Tech, a substantial majority of Virginians support the legal right for women to have an abortion. Similar to the results for 2003, 2002, and 2001, the 2004 survey indicates that fully two-thirds of Virginians (68%) support abortion as a legal right.¹
- A 2005 Washington Post poll showed that 61% of Virginians think abortion should be legal in all or most cases; 38 percent said they believe abortion should be illegal.

For more information on this Fact Sheet or other Planned Parenthood issues go to www.ppav.org or contact ppav@ppfa.org.

¹ Center for Survey Research, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, QUALITY OF LIFE IN VIRGINIA: 2004