

Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA)

On April 19, 2007, a bill entitled the "Freedom of Choice Act" (FOCA)(S. 1173, H.R. 1964) was introduced in Congress. This act announces that it is the "policy of the United States that every woman has the "fundamental right" to terminate a pregnancy. The act goes on to prohibit governments (including federal, state, and local governments at every level) from "interfering" with a woman's right to choose, and from "discriminating" against the exercise of this right.

There have been intermittent attempts to pass a FOCA bill since 1989, when the Supreme Court upheld various state regulations of abortion. Abortion advocates, fearing that the Court was retreating from Roe's broad protection of a right to abortion, sought to establish the right on statutory grounds.

FOCA is a radical bill. For the first time, abortion would become an entitlement the government must condone and promote. FOCA would eliminate a broad range of laws and would have an unprecedented destructive impact on society's ability to limit or regulate abortion. Members of Congress should be urged to pledge their opposition to FOCA. Those who are cosponsors should be asked to remove their names from the bill.

Action Alerts

- [Oppose the Freedom of Choice Act \(FOCA\) \(9/24/2008\)](#)

Other Documents on NCHLA Web Site

- [Order Form: Fight FOCA Postcard Campaign \(1/5/2009\)](#)
- [Postcards \(English & Spanish\): Fight FOCA Campaign \(1/3/2009\)](#)
- [Instructions: Fight FOCA Campaign \(1/2/2009\)](#)
- [Educational Flier \(Spanish\): Fight FOCA Campaign \(1/2/2009\)](#)
- [Educational Flier \(English\): Fight FOCA Campaign \(1/2/2009\)](#)
- [USCCB Bulletin Insert/Ad Opposing FOCA \(color\) \(1/1/2009\)](#)
- [USCCB Bulletin Insert/Ad Opposing FOCA \(B&W\) \(1/1/2009\)](#)
- [USCCB Bulletin Insert/Ad Opposing FOCA \(Spanish/color\) \(12/30/2008\)](#)
- [USCCB Bulletin Insert/Ad Opposing FOCA \(Spanish/B&W\) \(12/30/2008\)](#)
- [USCCB FOCA Fact Sheet \(*The "Freedom of Choice Act": Most Radical Abortion Legislation in U.S. History*\) \(10/3/2008\)](#)
- [Analysis of the Freedom of Choice Act \(FOCA\) \(9/16/2008\)](#)
- [Freedom of Choice Act \(H.R. 1964, S. 1173\): Sponsors and Cosponsors \(9/15/2008\)](#)

Legislative Reports

- [Current Legislative Report](#)

Links to Other Web Sites

- [USCCB's grassroots ad presentation opposing FOCA \(Posted on 10/3/2008\)](#)

- [Freedom of Choice Act, House version \(H.R. 1964\) \(Posted on 9/25/2008\)](#)
- [Freedom of Choice Act, Senate version \(S. 1173\) \(Posted on 9/25/2008\)](#)
- [Letter from Cardinal Justin Rigali, Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities, urging Member of Congress to "pledge their opposition to FOCA", Sept. 19, 2008 \(Posted on 9/24/2008\)](#)