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Your Taxes Will Make Illinois America's Abortion Capital

Governor J. B. Pritzker is proud that he has finally found an industry that wants to come to Illinois: abortion.

It makes sense, because under Pritzker, Illinois has crafted the nation's most extreme law, allowing unrestricted abortions all the way up to the date of a natural birth. While people and businesses are fleeing in record numbers from Illinois, Pritzker is celebrating the fact that the state will become an abortion oasis among surrounding states afflicted with "anti-choice" laws.

Women already are being invited from Wisconsin, Indiana, and elsewhere to come to abortion clinics expected to spring up like mushrooms near Illinois borders to accommodate the expected stream.

That's made possible by Illinois's Reproductive Health Act, arguably the least restrictive, most radical abortion law in America. Under it, abortions can be performed up to the moment of birth, for virtually any reason. And Illinois citizens—you and me—will

help pay for some of these abortions for out-of-state people.

Some readers will assume that I'm exaggerating. They should read the law; it's short and perfectly clear. It says *any* health care professional, even those not doctors, can end a pre-born life if he or she thinks it's okay. How many Planned Parenthood abortionists do you think will say no?

Nowhere in the law do you find any restrictions on when or how it can be done. No ban after, say, fifteen weeks.

Nothing to protect a fourteen-year-old from being taken to a clinic without her parents' knowledge so her twenty-five-year-old "boyfriend" can rid himself of the "problem." No waiting periods.

It will be no problem at all finding a "health care professional" to "terminate" a healthy fetus with the gruesome late-term procedure commonly known as partial birth abortion, where the baby is delivered feet-first up to the head, and then the head is punctured and the brain is sucked out so the baby can be delivered dead.

Nothing to require some consideration—none at all—be given to the idea that the state has an interest in protecting even "potential life."

This is all possible because the fetus/child in the womb/developing person (or whatever you want to call him or her), the unique life within, has absolutely no rights. None.

The law couldn't be any clearer. It declares, "A fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent rights under the laws of this State." Period. Certainly not a right to life. Or even a right to basic medical care. No more protections than a wart. Stunning.

The law does mention fetal viability. If the baby can survive outside the womb, it says, an abortion can only be performed if it's to "protect the life and health of the patient."

It's the same language taken straight out of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Doe v. Bolton* that defines "health" as "any factor, emotional, economic, psychological, familial, or physical. "

In other words, any reason at all.

Sorry for the legalese, but it's necessary to explain how far Pritzker and the Illinois Democratic Party are out of the mainstream. For decades, public opinion polls have demonstrated that Americans reject both of the two absolutist positions: abortions for any reason at any time and total abortion bans with no exceptions. Most people are somewhere in the middle.

According to Gallup, more than half of Americans believe that abortion should be legal, but always with some restrictions. Roughly two-thirds say abortion should be legal only in the first three months. That puts Pritzker and Illinois Democrats in the same 24 percent minority who believe that abortion should be legal under any circumstance.

Pritzker led the charge to kill the Illinois law that required parents to be notified if their minor daughter was to undergo an abortion. The law didn't even require that parents give their consent. They are ordered into the corner over there and told to shut up. Imagine, parents can't have a say in a serious medical procedure on their minor child, when a school nurse can't give a child so much as an aspirin without parental consent.

Pritzker is engaging in obvious demagoguery, acting as if abortion will ever be banned in Illinois. Not even close. Maybe when the Cubs and the White Sox meet in the World Series, if ever. Never, especially, will Illinois prohibit abortion in cases of rape and incest.

Most Americans — pro-life and some pro-choice — want commonsense restrictions that respect parents, young women, and children alike.

Yet, Pritzker and the Democratic Party see their lethal policies as an opening to regain the women's vote, especially suburban women who have been lost because of their anger over the damage the governor and his minions have done to children with classroom lockdowns and other decrees.

Perhaps the strategy is right because, frankly, so few people are interested in or know the details of this horrific law. They've been told that Pritzker's idea of "pro-choice" is somehow moderate. It is, instead, radical.

And so, Pritzker is “reaching out” to other states to set up clinics in Illinois, close to the borders to lure businesses and jobs to Illinois. Some 20,000 to 30,000 women from out of state are expected to arrive annually.

Never mind the strain on Illinois taxpayers. State Medicaid already pays for certain abortions. But already abortion lobbyists are demanding more. And getting it.

Medicaid reimbursement rates to abortion providers in Illinois are being increased by 20 percent. Millions more are being made available for low-income patients. Other funds are being sought for clinic security, expanded facilities and, yes, travel costs for out-of-state women.

Just how much Illinois taxpayers will have to cough up to staff and operate the fleet of near-border clinics isn't yet known. But you can bet that you will be paying for women from Des Moines, Madison, and Indianapolis to have their abortions in Illinois.

There was a time that the Democratic “Big Tent” had room for pro-lifers. Years ago, former Governor Robert Casey, a liberal Pennsylvania Democrat, was a good example, until, that is, he was banned from giving a speech at a Democratic convention because he failed to pass the abortion litmus test.

Nat Hentoff, himself a liberal pro-lifer, arranged to have Casey give his planned speech at the historic

Great Hall of Cooper Union in New York. But it didn't happen. "Hooligans" and "speech muggers" began shouting and screaming, driving Casey from the stage.

That was in 1992. Can anyone tell me that Democrats now running the party have become any more tolerant today?

Abortion is not going to be banned in Illinois, not ever. There isn't even an attempt being made. All that Illinois citizens desire is reasonable regulations.

There has to be a middle ground that reflects the majority opinion of Illinois voters, and that does not require our taxpayer money to attract people from other states for abortions here, especially for healthy babies who are old enough to survive outside a mother's womb.

That is called "democracy."