

1990

## ABORTION RIGHTS

WHEREAS Jewish law, though promoting the highest respect for human life, does *not* categorically or universally oppose an option to terminate certain pregnancies, and

WHEREAS Jewish law does in fact, in a number of circumstances, *sanction* abortion, basing its view of permissibility upon the belief that a foetus is not an autonomous person, and

WHEREAS the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards of The Rabbinical Assembly has affirmed the right of a woman to choose an abortion in cases where “continuation of a pregnancy might cause the mother severe physical or psychological harm, or when the foetus is judged by competent medical opinion as severely defective,” and

WHEREAS our movement has consistently advocated a “separation between church and state” meant to inhibit the government from imposing a restrictive legal stance in matters of personal moral choice where citizens of differing faiths may in good conscience honorably disagree, and

WHEREAS members of The Rabbinical Assembly have lent their support to issues of social justice,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Rabbinical Assembly call upon Federal and State courts, the United States Congress and the legislatures of the several states to maintain a woman’s right to abortion as established in the 1973 Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade*, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the Rabbinical Assembly, acting as leaders in their respective communities, be authorized through the power of this resolution to represent the Conservative rabbinate’s position on this matter in those fora where their votes need to be heard, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Rabbinical Assembly, in pursuit of the advancement of the goals defined above, officially affiliate with the Religious Coalition of Abortion Rights as a sponsoring organization, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Rabbinical Assembly call upon the Canadian Government not to re-criminalize abortion in the Dominion of Canada.