



Concerned Women for America is the nation's largest public policy women's organization with more than 500,000 members.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

**Michelle Mulledy, New York Legislative Liaison
or Anne Downey, New York Director (716) 359-3226
director@newyork.cwfa.org**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CWA of New York Denounces the No-Fault Divorce Bill that will Harm Women and Children

Albany, NY — Concerned Women for America (CWA) of New York denounces A9753A/S3890A, the no-fault divorce bill passed by the New York Senate on June 15.

CWA speaks to this critical issue in our role as the nation's largest public policy women's organization with over 500,000 members nationwide, and we speak on behalf of our nearly 16,000 members in New York State.

Make no mistake about it: No-fault divorce would hurt women and children in our state. New York is the last state to consider jumping on the no-fault divorce bandwagon, decades after other states first embraced this social experiment, which has failed miserably. No-fault divorce laws across America have led to an increase in divorce rates, as much as 25 percent. In contrast, under New York's long-standing divorce laws, our state has one of the lowest divorce rates in the country.

One famous New York woman, Hillary Clinton, has said of the divorce laws in other states, "Divorce has become too easy because of our permissive laws and attitudes....The good news is that attitudes about marriage and divorce seem to be changing. Some states are beginning to examine whether their divorce laws are too lax." We agree with her assessment.

No-fault divorce would give leverage to the spouse who wants to leave the marriage and render powerless the spouse who wants to preserve the union. Because no-fault divorce robs many women of leverage, both Concerned Women for America of New York and the New York chapter of the National Organization of Women are opposing this bill. While our organizations disagree on numerous issues, we are standing here today united in our strong opposition to the no-fault divorce bill that will cause tremendous harm to women in our state.

The divorce statistics tell us that many women suffer a significant drop in their standard of living following a divorce. We are currently in a recession with many New Yorkers experiencing significant financial difficulties. It would be unconscionable to add additional economic burdens to the women of this state, who will be powerless to stop a spouse from pursuing a no-fault divorce.

This is the wrong bill. This is the wrong time. This is a failed social experiment that has wreaked havoc in the other 49 states. For all these reasons, CWA denounces the no-fault divorce bill. Please do not do this to the women of our state.