



National Association of Women Lawyers®
the voice of women in the law™

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**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS RELEASES
STATEMENT ON OKLAHOMA ABORTION LEGISLATION**

Chicago, May 10, 2010 --The National Association of Women Lawyers is concerned that recent abortion legislation passed in Oklahoma is unconstitutional, potentially violates freedom of speech and the right to privacy, and interferes with the doctor-patient relationship.

H.B. 2780 requires that a woman about to undergo an abortion submit to either a vaginal transducer or abdominal transducer ultrasound, view the ultrasound and listen to a detailed description of the fetus. Under the law, which provides no exception for women who are pregnant as a result of incest or rape, violators are guilty of a felony and subject to fines ranging from \$10,000 to over \$100,000 per offense. Those who have standing to seek to enforce the law include a spouse, parent, sibling or guardian.

Another law, H.B. 2656, requires that in a wrongful life action or a wrongful birth action, no damages may be recovered from a person for any condition that existed at the time of a child's birth if the claim is that the person's act or omission contributed to a woman not having obtained an abortion.

These laws, the validity of which NAWL questions, have already been challenged in court, and NAWL trusts that the judicial process will address these issues properly. NAWL's Legislative Committee and Amicus Committee shall continue to monitor these issues as they develop.

NAWL is the leading national voluntary organization devoted to the interests of women lawyers and women's rights. Founded over 100 years ago, NAWL has members in all 50 states and engages in a variety of programs and activities to advance its mission. For more information, please visit www.nawl.org or call the NAWL office at 312-988-6186.

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