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Youth And Government

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Committee Assignment: Assembly Freedom 3

Bill #:AF-22

1 **Sponsors:** Isabella Negron-Main, Sarah Kane, Matthew Murrell

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3 **An Act To:** Amend section 2803, subsection j, of the New York Public Health Law to
4 ensure that no discrimination is placed on viable female sterilizations.

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6 *The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly do enact as follows:*

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8 **Purpose:** This bill is intended to give autonomy back to women attempting to be
9 sterilized by making it illegal for public hospitals to place egregious discrimination
10 on women.

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12 **Summary of Provisions**

13 **Section 1: Definitions**

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- 15 1. **Egregious Discrimination:** Discrimination based on factors such as marital
16 status, age (over 21), or number of existing children
- 17 2. **Tubal Ligation:** a surgical procedure for female sterilization which involves
18 severing and tying the fallopian tubes
- 19 3. **Hysterectomy:** surgical operation to remove all or part of the uterus.
- 20 4. **Endometriosis:** a condition resulting from the appearance of endometrial
21 tissue outside the uterus and causing pelvic pain.
- 22 5. **Ovarian Cancer:** Cancer that forms in tissues of the ovary
- 23 6. **Fibroids:** a benign tumor of muscular and fibrous tissues, typically developing
24 in the wall of the uterus.

24 **Section 2:**

25 (j) The commissioner shall require that the statement regarding patient rights
26 and responsibilities, described in paragraph (g) of this subdivision, shall include a
27 provision informing the patient of his or her right to not be discriminated against on
28 account of age, marital status, or number of preexisting children.

29 **Justification:**

30 Many women who are medically perfect candidates for regular sterilization
31 procedures are denied based on outdated and frankly sexist practices. Some
32 doctors may cite age, marital status, or lack of existing children as reasons to deny
33 women sterilizations. There is no medical or scientific basis for these beliefs, and
34 the denial of these procedures is blatantly ignoring the health of the woman in favor
35 of saving the functions of her body for her husband or future partner and non-
36 existent children.

37 **Fiscal Implications:** Funding for these procedures is already allotted for each
38 hospital, and this bill will not cause any additional cost.

39 **Effective Date:** January first after the passing of the bill.