Model State News Release

For Immediate Release

January XX, 2018

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[State] lawmakers join nationwide effort to protect Roe v. Wade

[Location] – To mark the 45th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court decision that protects the right to abortion, [insert sponsor names] introduced [insert bill name] to ensure that in the event the decision is overturned, abortion will remain legal in [state name]. The effort is part of a nationwide campaign by lawmakers in XX states to protect *Roe* through state legislation.

"If Roe is reversed, the legality of abortion is left up to the states and, at present, only seventeen states affirmatively protect the right to abortion. That's why [state] needs to act now," explained [XXXXX XXXXX].

"The decision about whether or when to become a parent is a deeply personal and private matter. This legislation is intended to guarantee the freedom of those involved to make their own decisions," said [XXXXX XXXXX].

Ironically, the 45th anniversary of *Roe* occurs under the 45th President, an ardent opponent of that constitutional protection. As a result, *Roe*—and all abortion rights—are threatened as never before. Donald Trump has promised to appoint Supreme Court justices who will overturn *Roe v. Wade*, he has already made one such appointment, and the nation is only one justice's death or retirement away from an unprecedented ruling to rollback a bedrock constitutional right.

State Senator XXXXX XXXXX said: "We have fought for 45 years to protect the right to abortion under Roe, and we are ready to fight another 45."

State Representative XXXXX XXXXX, noted that "Every poll finds that about 70 percent of voters believe *Roe v. Wade* should be upheld. If the courts won't do it, we will."

State Senator XXXXX XXXXX declared: "Once a woman has decided to have an abortion, she should have the access to do so without fear of being punished."

The nationwide campaign to protect *Roe* is being coordinated by the <u>Public Leadership</u> <u>Institute</u>, a nonpartisan organization based in Washington, D.C.