

Sometimes we must protest for sacred and noble causes. It bleeds my heart that none of the Jewish organizations – even none of the orthodox organizations – in New York protested the recently passed abortion law under almost all circumstances as long as the woman and her doctor agree. The Rabbis in New York know that this law will lead to all forms of immorality. And they know that according to the Rambam abortion is akin to murder. Yet they are afraid to get involved, afraid to speak up. In this connection we must say: אשמנו מכל דור. It is precisely because New York has a concentration of Jews that New York was the state to pass the new abortion law, and the Jewish members of the New York legislature supported the law. In fact, the legislature at first defeated the abortion bill; but one New York state senator, a Jew, who had at first voted against the bill reported that on Pesach night while sitting at the Seder he had a pang of conscience and thought that by his vote against the abortion bill he might cause difficulty and suffering to some girl who would otherwise have solved her problem by obtaining an abortion. Then he switched his vote and the bill was passed. Why did not any of the Rabbis in New York reassure him that his first thoughts had been right? We must say here: אשמנו מכל דור.