

ASSEMBLY, No. 2936

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 20, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JAY WEBBER

District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Assemblyman JOHN DIMAIO

District 23 (Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren)

SYNOPSIS

Prohibits wrongful life/birth suits.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 4/9/2020)

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1 medical malpractice insurance rates, adding greatly to the overall
2 cost of healthcare. This is especially true in the field of obstetrics.
3 The high cost of malpractice coverage has led to a shortage of
4 obstetricians in New Jersey, denying many pregnant women
5 accessible and affordable care.

6 This bill does not remove liability for a healthcare provider who
7 makes an intentional misrepresentation or causes a traditional injury
8 by their willful act or want of ordinary care or skill.

9 Another goal of this bill is to affirm the dignity and value of the
10 lives of the disabled and the commitment of their parents. Wrongful
11 birth and life suits marginalize and stigmatize the disabled by
12 communicating the message to all disabled people that their
13 differences make their lives not worth living—that they would be
14 better off dead. Worse, in an unseemly spectacle they put parents in
15 the position of testifying to that effect in open court about their own
16 children, who will either hear these sentiments or later read them in
17 a record that will endure. This bill would instead communicate and
18 enshrine the principle that no person can ever be considered a legal
19 harm.