

## OPINION EXTRA

# Providing free abortion pills is destructive

## Your Turn

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Guest columnists

In a story published in the Democrat & Chronicle, New York City Mayor Eric Adams boasted distributing abortion pills free of cost.

"No other city in the nation or in the world has a public health department that is providing medication abortion," he was quoted as saying.

Pregnant mothers connect with health care providers looking for support, and instead New York City seems absorbed with providing abortion to-go in a brown paper bag.

Nothing was published in the imbalanced article to contraindicate this racing and possibly unsafe practice. Loosening abortion restrictions in New York is overkill and suspect, especially among minority communities.

The chief executive officer of Greater New York's Planned Parenthood recent-

ly claimed that free abortion pills will "reduc[e] health care disparities that systematically disadvantage black, Latinx and marginalized communities." Some abortion rights special interests, beyond Planned Parenthood, openly acknowledge abortion pill dispensaries "primarily target" marginalized women and girls.

But abortion rates nationwide and in New York already show a disproportionate impact on low-income and minority communities. The overwhelming majority of abortions are experienced by marginalized women and girls. New York City is a national epicenter of abortion, with data from past years showing instances in which more Black children were aborted each year than birthed in the city.

Marginalized and minority women and girls facing unexpected pregnancies don't need more abortion or abortion pills handed to them for free. They need increased resources, such as af-

fordable child care and better paid parental leave, including in New York. Data reveals New York's child care system is in a state of crisis. Despite New York's paid parental leave policy, it is shameful compared to other progressive, civilized societies.

Prior to the Federal Drug Administration's recent lessening of their Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy surrounding medication abortion, the agency had regulations in place surrounding chemical abortion, a procedure most always deadly for unborn children and potentially dangerous for pregnant mothers themselves.

It is well documented that chemical abortion is potentially dangerous for mothers, especially for those whose pregnancies are more than 10 weeks or ectopic. According to medication abortion's prescribing information its risks include, hemorrhaging, fever, incomplete abortion and other complications such as ongoing pregnancy, infection,

endometritis, uterine blood clots and/or rupture.

Additionally, unlike other states, New York fails to at least ensure pregnant women and girls have access to pre-abortion ultrasounds. It is also well documented that an ultrasound is the best way to determine the gestational age of a child in utero or whether the pregnancy is ectopic.

The reality of medication abortion is painfully complicated. The most common procedure takes two steps and two medications.

Passing out free abortion pills is not only destructive to unborn children, but potentially endangers the lives of their mothers. Abortion removes the "care" from healthcare for both mother and child.

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