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Paper Title: Abortion in Argentina

Abstract: The lack of legal and safe abortions is killing the women of Argentina. In Argentina, an estimated 500,000 pregnancies are illegally aborted each year. 68,000 women enter the public hospitals due to complications from unsafe abortions, and over 100 women die per year. Currently, a new law is being debated in Congress that would liberalize legal access to abortions. This Paper discusses the political and social landscapes of Argentina in relation to the abortion laws, and how these landscapes will be affected if the proposed new abortion law is passed.

Part I discusses the current laws, the implementation of these laws, and their effects on Argentine women. Part II explains the women's movement and its progress and details a proposed bill currently being considered. Part III explores the interaction of Catholicism and abortion laws, as well as the Church's relationship with the proposed law. Finally, Part IV examines external influences on the provision of abortions.

This Paper demonstrates that Argentina is potentially on the verge of a major change in abortion laws. The current law is not being implemented effectively, and the changes that have occurred in the women's movement, societal attitudes and relationships with the Catholic Church, and significance of international jurisprudence, all support the adoption of the proposed new law. Many internal Argentine groups have played a major role in the history of the abortion debate, and stand to be significantly impacted if the new law passes, as this Paper asserts it will.