

March 16, 2015

Minority Leader Harry Reid
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader Reid:

We, the undersigned organizations, object to the inclusion of an abortion restriction in S. 178, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, and appreciate your strong opposition to this restriction. Survivors of trafficking deserve comprehensive health care, not barriers to such care.

Helping survivors of trafficking should be a bipartisan effort, as it has been in previous years, not an opportunity to advance anti-women's health priorities. This provision includes a radical expansion of the Hyde amendment, which is an already unjust policy that prohibits federal funding for abortion care in most cases.

We oppose the Hyde amendment and any extension of abortion restrictions because they disproportionately impact low-income women and communities of color and deny people the ability to make personal medical decisions. To be clear, the language in S.178 is even more extreme than current policy; it codifies the Hyde amendment as it relates to the Domestic Trafficking Victims Fund and the fund is financed by fines and penalties paid by convicted federal offenders, not from tax dollars.

Thank you for standing strong against any attempt to play politics with women's lives. We support your efforts to strike the harmful abortion restriction, as Senator Leahy's amendment does, and appreciate your opposition to language that would harm the very people this bill is intended to help.

Signed,

Advocates for Youth
Alliance for Justice
American Association of University Women (AAUW)
American Civil Liberties Union
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Black Women's Health Imperative
Catholics for Choice
Center for Reproductive Rights
Disciples for Choice
Disciples Justice Action Network
Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.

Ibis Reproductive Health
Institute for Science and Human Values
Ipas
Methodist Federation for Social Action
NARAL Pro-Choice America
National Abortion Federation
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Council of Jewish Women
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Health Law Program
National Institute for Reproductive Health
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Organization for Women
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Women's Health Network
National Women's Law Center
Physicians for Reproductive Health
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Population Connection Action Fund
Pro-Choice Resources
Reproductive Health Access Project
Reproductive Health Technologies Project
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)
Trust Women/Silver Ribbon Campaign
UltraViolet
Union for Reform Judaism
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity
West Virginia Free