

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
724 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Judy Chu
2423 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Marcia Fudge
2344 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lois Frankel
1037 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 21, 2015

Dear Senators Blumenthal and Baldwin and Representatives Chu, Fudge, and Frankel:

As national, state, and local organizations committed to women's reproductive health, rights, and justice, we write in support of the **Women's Health Protection Act of 2015**.

Despite the clear constitutional rights established more than four decades ago in the landmark Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade*, each year politicians across the country pass harmful restrictions in an effort to roll back a woman's right to make the best health care decisions for herself and her family. Any one of these restrictions imposed on health care providers and abortion services can have a devastating impact on the women affected by it. But when all of these various attempts to block access to abortion work together, the effect is often catastrophic—making a range of essential reproductive health care virtually impossible to obtain for far too many women.

Every pregnant woman faces her own unique circumstances and potential challenges, and she must be able to make her own decisions based on her personal values, the advice of the medical professionals she trusts, and what's right for her family. In recent years, however, politicians have increasingly sought new ways to interfere with personal decision-making and undermine women's access to abortion care. State legislatures have been more active than ever in passing burdensome requirements that single out abortion providers and services and do nothing to advance women's health or safety—and, in fact, ultimately jeopardize women's health. States enacted over 230 dangerous and unnecessary restrictions on abortion between 2011 and 2014, more than in the previous decade combined.

Examples of restrictions on abortion that have been enacted with increasing frequency in recent years that single out abortion services and impede access include:

- Requirements that health care providers perform tests and procedures even if they are not medically necessary;

- Measures that force health care providers to follow outdated medical guidelines rather than follow the current standard of care;
- Prohibitions on expanding access to women in rural areas through telemedicine;
- Requirements imposed on abortion clinics that normally apply to hospitals or ambulatory surgical centers;
- Requirements that physicians at abortion clinics maintain admitting privileges at local hospitals, despite the safety of abortion and the fact that admitting privileges are not necessary in the event of a complication;
- Measures that require a woman seeking an abortion to make multiple unnecessary trips to the abortion provider;
- Making a woman visit an anti-abortion “crisis pregnancy center;” and
- Bans on abortion prior to viability - some as early as six weeks - in clear violation of the Supreme Court decision in *Roe v Wade*.

A woman’s constitutional rights should not depend on her zip code. But the legislative attacks on reproductive health care have made it so that women in some parts of the country have diminished access to essential reproductive health care. We need a federal law that would make these restrictions unlawful, thus allowing medical providers to do the important work of providing safe, legal, high-quality health care to all women across the country. We need the **Women’s Health Protection Act**. We commend you for your leadership in reintroducing this critical legislation and pledge our support in working toward its passage.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

4000 Years for Choice

Abortion Care Network

Alliance for Justice

American Association of University Women (AAUW)

American Civil Liberties Union

American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

American Society for Emergency Contraception

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum

Association of Reproductive Health Professionals

Black Women’s Health Imperative

Catholics for Choice

Center for Reproductive Rights

Center on Reproductive Rights and Justice at UC Berkeley School of Law

Civil Liberties and Public Policy at Hampshire College

Gynuity Health Projects

Hadassah, The Women’s Zionist Organization of America, Inc.

Institute for Science and Human Values, Inc.

Ipas
Jewish Women International
Medical Students for Choice
NARAL
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 Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Organization for Women
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Women's Health Network
National Women's Law Center
Nursing Students for Choice
People For the American Way
Physicians for Reproductive Health
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Population Connection Action Fund
Population Institute
Raising Women's Voices for the Health Care We Need
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
The Reproductive Health Access Project
Reproductive Health Technologies Project
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)
Ultraviolet

State and Local Organizations

Hartford GYN Center (Connecticut)
Atlanta Women's Center (Georgia)
Feminist Women's Health Center (Georgia)
Northland Family Planning Centers (Michigan)
Cherry Hill Women's Center (New Jersey)
Southwestern Women's Options (New Mexico)
Preterm (Ohio)
Allentown Women's Center (Pennsylvania)
Delaware County Women's Center (Pennsylvania)
Philadelphia Women's Center (Pennsylvania)
Choices (Tennessee)
Healthy and Free Tennessee (Tennessee)
SisterReach (Tennessee)
The Lilith Fund (Texas)
Southwestern Women's Surgery Center (Texas)
Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health (Wisconsin)