

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

The Honorable Judy Chu
1520 Longworth 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

November 13, 2013

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

As national organizations committed to women's reproductive health, rights, and justice, we write in support of the **Women's Health Protection Act of 2013**.

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 a record-breaking 92 restrictions on abortion in 2011, and over 100 additional dangerous and unnecessary measures have passed into law since then.

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; and
- Making a woman visit an anti-abortion “crisis pregnancy center.”

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 bringing forth this critical legislation and pledge our support in working toward its passage.

Sincerely,

Abortion Care Network
 Alliance for Justice
 American Association of University Women
 American Civil Liberties Union
 American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
 Association of Reproductive Health Professionals
 Black Women's Health Imperative
 Catholics for Choice
 Center for Reproductive Rights
 Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
 Jewish Women International
 NARAL Pro-Choice America
 National Abortion Federation
 National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
 National Council of Jewish Women
 National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association

National Health Law Program
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Women's Law Center
Physicians for Reproductive Health
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Population Connection
Reproductive Health Technologies Project
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