

## SUPPORT THE WOMEN'S HEALTH PROTECTION ACT

Dear Senators:

The more than 225 undersigned organizations dedicated to protecting and advancing civil rights, health, economic security, LGBTQ rights, and gender justice write in support of S. 1975, the "Women's Health Protection Act" (WHPA). We urge the Senate to swiftly bring the bill to the floor and for all Senators to vote yes on passage.

Despite the Supreme Court's decision in *Roe v. Wade* nearly fifty years ago, abortion access has continued to be under threat. Anti-abortion politicians and advocates have continued to undermine abortion access both at the federal and state levels. This is part of a nearly fifty-year strategy to make abortion wholly inaccessible for those who need it. In September, and again in December, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to put an end to Texas's S.B. 8, a six-week abortion ban, rendering *Roe v. Wade*'s protections meaningless for the majority of Texas abortion patients, and giving other states hostile to reproductive rights a green light to ban abortion outright in the near future. People with resources are being forced to flee the state to access abortion, while those who are unable to leave the state are being forced to continue their pregnancies against their wishes. Around the same time, the Supreme Court recently heard oral arguments in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, a case in which Mississippi has asked the Court to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. The Supreme Court could gut or wholly overturn the right to abortion by this summer.

WHPA would help protect access to abortion against state-level bans and medically unnecessary restrictions that are reducing, and in some cases, eliminating, access to abortion across the country. WHPA establishes a statutory right for health care providers to provide, and their patients to receive, abortion free from medically unnecessary restrictions, and limitations, as well as other restrictions, including bans, that single out abortion and impede access to care.

Reproductive rights are human rights. Every person should have the ability to decide if, when, and how they want to start or grow a family without the interference of politicians. But for some communities of color and people living with low incomes, this right has been in name only. Due to systemic barriers and discrimination, abortion bans disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous, Latinx, and Asian American and Pacific Islanders, LGBTQ+ folks, immigrants, people with disabilities, young people, and those living in rural areas — those who are already medically underserved and experience multiple inequities in care. Abortion bans are yet another way in which health care access is denied to those who face systemic oppression in this country.

The 2021 state legislative season was the most hostile for reproductive health and rights since *Roe* was decided. According to the [Guttmacher Institute](#), over 600 abortion restrictions in 47 states were introduced last year alone, and 108 of those were enacted. But while these attacks are accelerating, they are not new. State legislatures have enacted over 1,330 restrictions in the 49 years since *Roe* was decided, including 591 restrictions enacted since 2011. Restrictions on

abortion are not by happenstance, but are a part of a legacy of reproductive oppression in this country that by design disproportionately impact BIPOC, young people, people with disabilities, immigrants, LGBTQIA+ and other communities targeted by systemic oppression.

Around half the states in the U.S. are poised to move to ban abortion if *Roe v. Wade* were overturned — jeopardizing access for nearly half the country, 36 million women of reproductive age, plus trans men and non-binary people. Today, nearly 90% of American counties are without a single abortion provider, and 27 cities have become “abortion deserts,” because people who live there must travel 100 miles or more to reach a provider. There are currently five states with only one abortion provider. The vast majority of Americans believe abortion should be legal: [80% of Americans believe abortion should be legal](#), and there is no state where outlawing abortion is popular.

Abortion is a personal medical decision and a safe procedure that enables people to make critical health care decisions that impact their lives, their families, and their communities that should be left to an individual, not politicians. Nearly 1 in 4 women will have an abortion in their lifetime. Each pregnant person who is seeking abortion should have the reliable and affordable access they need to this constitutionally protected medical care.

If the Supreme Court of the United States decides to dismantle or even overturn *Roe v. Wade*, there is no telling how it might further dismantle immigrant, LGBTQ+, and a multitude of other rights. The Senate must follow in the House of Representatives’ footsteps now and pass WHPA to protect access to abortion and ensure that no one is denied this fundamental right.

Sincerely,

9to5

Abortion Access Front

ADL (Anti-Defamation League)

Advocates for Youth

ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal

All-Options

Alliance for Justice

Ameinu

American Atheists

American Civil Liberties Union

American Humanist Association

American Sexual Health Association

American Society for Emergency Contraception

American Society for Reproductive Medicine

Americans United for Separation of Church and State

Amnesty International USA

Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)  
Athlete Ally  
Autistic Self Advocacy Network  
Bartz-Altadonna Community Health Center  
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action  
Black Women for Wellness  
Black Women's Health Imperative  
Blue Future  
Broward for Progress  
CA LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network  
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice  
Catholics for Choice  
Center for American Progress  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Center for Law and Social Policy  
Center for LGBTQ Economic Advancement & Research (CLEAR)  
Center for Reproductive Rights  
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers  
Coalition of Labor Union Women  
Cobalt  
Collective Power for Reproductive Justice  
Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR)  
Community Catalyst  
Community Medical Centers  
Demos  
Downtown Women for Change  
Economic Opportunity Institute  
EMAA Project  
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)  
End Citizens United / Let America Vote Action Fund  
Equal Rights Advocates  
Equality California  
Equality North Carolina  
Faith Choice Ohio  
Families USA  
Family Equality  
Feminist Agenda Network  
Feminist Women's Health Center  
Florida Health Justice Project  
Florida Interfaith Coalition for Reproductive Health and Justice  
FORGE, Inc.  
Freedom From Religion Foundation  
Friends of the Earth US  
Gender Justice

Girls Inc.  
GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders  
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality  
Global Justice Center  
Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights (GRR!)  
Guttmacher Institute  
Hadassah, NCJW,  
Healthy Teen Network  
Hispanic Federation  
Hope Clinic for Women  
Human Impact Partners  
Human Rights Campaign  
Immigration Hub  
In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda  
Indiana Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice  
Indivisible  
Interfaith Voices for Reproductive Justice (IVRJ)  
Ipas  
Jacobs Institute of Women's Health  
Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action  
Jewish Democratic Council of America  
Jewish Labor Committee  
Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance  
Justice for Migrant Women  
Kentucky Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice  
Lambda Legal  
Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA)  
Latino Victory  
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law  
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)  
Legal Aid at Work  
Legal Voice  
Liberate Abortion  
Louisiana Coalition for Reproductive Freedom  
Mabel Wadsworth Center  
Mainers for Accountable Leadership Action  
Management Sciences for Health  
Mazzoni Center  
MDK consulting group  
Metropolitan Community Churches, Global Justice Institute  
Mi Familia Vota  
Midwest Access Project  
MomsRising  
Moving Traditions

Ms. Foundation for Women  
Muslims for Progressive Values  
NARAL Pro-Choice America  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Birth Equity Collaborative  
National Black Justice Coalition  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans  
National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW)  
National Council of Jewish Women, Arizona  
National Council of Jewish Women, Atlanta  
National Council of Jewish Women, Austin  
National Council of Jewish Women, Bergen County  
National Council of Jewish Women, California  
National Council of Jewish Women, Chicago North Shore  
National Council of Jewish Women, Cleveland  
National Council of Jewish Women, Dallas  
National Council of Jewish Women, Essex County  
National Council of Jewish Women, Georgia  
National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Dallas  
National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Philadelphia  
National Council of Jewish Women, Houston  
National Council of Jewish Women, Lakeville  
National Council of Jewish Women, Louisville  
National Council of Jewish Women, Maryland Action Team  
National Council of Jewish Women, Michigan  
National Council of Jewish Women, Milwaukee Section  
National Council of Jewish Women, Minnesota  
National Council of Jewish Women, Nashville  
National Council of Jewish Women, Palm Beach  
National Council of Jewish Women, Peninsula  
National Council of Jewish Women, Pennsylvania  
National Council of Jewish Women, Pittsburgh  
National Council of Jewish Women, Sacramento  
National Council of Jewish Women, Saddleback  
National Council of Jewish Women, San Antonio  
National Council of Jewish Women, South Cook  
National Council of Jewish Women, St. Louis  
National Council of Jewish Women, Texas  
National Council of Jewish Women, Virginia  
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association  
National Health Law Program  
National Hispanic Medical Association

National Immigration Law Center  
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice  
National Organization for Women  
National Organization for Women, Hollywood Chapter  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA)  
National Urban League  
National Women's Health Network  
National Women's Law Center  
New Voices for Reproductive Justice  
NM Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice  
NOISE FOR NOW  
Nuestro PAC  
Oklahoma Call for Reproductive Justice  
One Fair Wage  
Our Revolution  
PAI  
People For the American Way  
PFLAG National  
Physicians for Reproductive Health  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Poder Latinx  
Poder NC  
Population Institute  
Positive Women's Network-USA  
Power to Decide  
Presbyterians Affirming Reproductive Rights (PARO)  
Prevention Institute  
Pro-Choice North Carolina  
Pro-Choice Virginia  
Rabbinical Assembly  
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association  
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice  
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice - IL affiliate  
Reproductive Health Access Project  
Resilience, formerly Rape Victim Advocates  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)  
SIECUS: Sex Ed for Social Change  
Silver State Equality-Nevada  
SisterLove, Inc.  
SisterReach  
Society for Humanistic Judaism  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)  
Supermajority

T'ruah  
Taller Salud  
Tampa Bay Access Force  
The Black Women's Health Imperative  
The Falls Church Episcopal  
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights  
The National Center for Transgender Equality  
The National Domestic Violence Hotline  
The National Women's Health Network  
The Ohio Women's Public Policy Network  
The Womxn Project  
Transgender Law Center  
True North Research  
UltraViolet  
Union for Reform Judaism and Women of Reform Judaism  
Unitarian Universalist Association  
United State of Women  
United We Dream  
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity  
Voto Latino  
WCLA - Choice Matters  
We Testify  
Whole Woman's Health  
Whole Woman's Health Alliance  
Women and Girls Foundation of Southwest Pennsylvania  
Women Employed  
Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual (WATER)  
Women's Law Project  
Women's March  
Women's Media Center  
Women's Rabbinic Network  
Women's Voices for the Earth  
WOMEN'S WAY  
Young Invincibles  
YWCA USA  
Zero Hour