

36 Religious & Faith-based Organizations Support the EACH Woman Act

September 26, 2016

US Senate
Washington, DC 20510

US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator and Representative:

The undersigned national faith-based and religious organizations and communities share a commitment to ensuring access to affordable health coverage for all. **Together, we urge you to support the Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance Act (EACH Woman Act, HR 2972).** This legislation would end bans that deny abortion coverage to individuals based on their income or insurance.

Specifically, the EACH Woman Act would ensure that every woman who receives care or insurance through the federal government will have coverage for all pregnancy-related care, including abortion. Further, it would prohibit interference by federal, state and local legislators in decisions of private insurance companies to offer abortion coverage, including in the health insurance marketplaces created under the Affordable Care Act.

As people of faith, we believe each individual has a basic human right to make their own reproductive decisions based on their own morals, beliefs and conscience. Our nation is home to people of many different beliefs and religious affiliations; we cannot limit an individual's religious liberty by enshrining one set of religious beliefs into law. Decisions about how to respond to a pregnancy are sacred and deeply personal. We respect the right of each person to make such decisions for themselves, and oppose efforts that seek to interfere or cultivate judgment and shame about these decisions.

We also believe in the equal worth of all people and our shared responsibility to build a just society. We are, therefore, called to treat all individuals with dignity, no matter their income, insurance, gender, race or other factors. Currently, bans that deny abortion coverage fall hardest on individuals struggling to make ends meet, who are more likely to be women of color, immigrant women, transgender or gender non-conforming individuals, and young people. Such restrictions can have far reaching consequences; a woman who wants to end a pregnancy but is denied is more likely to fall into poverty than one who can obtain an abortion. Access to reproductive health care should not depend on a person's income or type of insurance. We must ensure that each of us has access to the full range of reproductive health care options, including abortion.

The EACH Woman Act would respect each woman's ability to make her own faith-informed or conscience-based decisions about pregnancy, ensuring she can afford to obtain safe medical care — however much she earns, no matter how she is insured, and wherever she lives. We urge you to support meaningful policy change for women and families by cosponsoring the EACH Woman Act.

Sincerely,

1. Ameinu (Our People)
2. Anti-Defamation League
3. Association of Humanistic Rabbis
4. Bend the Arc Jewish Action

5. Catholics for Choice
6. Central Conference of American Rabbis
7. Disciples for Choice
8. Disciples Justice Action Network
9. Episcopal Women's Caucus
10. Equal Partners in Faith
11. Global Justice Institute
12. Habonim Dror North America
13. Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
14. Jewish Women International (JWI)
15. Keshet
16. Methodist Federation for Social Action
17. Metropolitan Community Churches
18. Midwest Access Coalition
19. Muslims for Progressive Values
20. NA'AMAT USA
21. National Council of Jewish Women
22. Planned Parenthood Federation of America Clergy Advocacy Board
23. Presbyterian Feminist Agenda Network
24. Presbyterians Affirming Reproductive Options
25. Rabbinical Assembly
26. Reconstructionist Rabbinical College/Jewish Reconstructionist Communities
27. The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
28. Religious Institute
29. SisterReach
30. Society for Humanistic Judaism
31. Union for Reform Judaism
32. Unitarian Universalist Association
33. Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation
34. Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ)
35. Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual (WATER)
36. Women's League for Conservative Judaism

For more information, contact:

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