

Support the Reproductive Justice and Access Act
House Bill 5615
Talking Points for Supporters

The Reproductive Justice and Access Act (House Bill 5615) empowers all people in the State of Illinois with the information and resources necessary to make their own *personal* decision about whether to have a child. The Act recognizes that each woman's decision about becoming a parent is informed and complicated by individual factors that none of us can know. Illinoisans can disagree about many things, but each of us understand that a pregnant woman is the *only* person who can decide what is best for her and her family.

The Reproductive Justice and Access Act ensures that a woman, not the government, makes the critical, personal decision about whether to become a parent.

- ◇ The Act prohibits government from interfering in the personal decisions made by a pregnant woman in accordance with the decision in *Roe v. Wade*
- ◇ The Act insures access to critical services that a woman needs in order to make a decision about her own pregnancy – including access to pre-natal care, access to information about adoption, access to financial resources for the complete range of reproductive healthcare (including the termination of a pregnancy) and access to contraception
- ◇ The Illinois General Assembly should not impose the moral views of any *one* religious viewpoint on *all* women in Illinois – pregnancy is emotional and special, a woman must be permitted to make a decision about becoming a parent on her own.

The Reproductive Justice and Access Act works to limit the problem of unintended pregnancies – an agenda that all Illinoisans must agree is desirable

- ◇ The Act ensures that all individuals have appropriate and necessary access to the full range of reproductive education, including comprehensive sexual health education – not just faulty abstinence-only until marriage education that endangers the health and safety of young people
- ◇ The Act protects and expands access for all persons in Illinois to contraceptive care, including timely access to emergency contraception in a moment of personal crisis
- ◇ Too many elected officials in Illinois complain about the rate of unintended pregnancies, yet vote for policies that deny access to contraceptive health care and teach our children myths about sexuality that leave them unprotected and unprepared, sadly resulting in increased incidence of unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. It is time to get serious about reducing the number of unintended pregnancies in our state with policies that actually go to the root of the problem.

The Reproductive Justice and Access Act places the decisions about care for the pregnant woman and her decision about whether to become a parent where it belongs – in the hands of the woman, working with her physician, not in the purview of a government bureaucrat

- ◇ Under the Act, physicians who care for a pregnant woman are required to meet the accepted standards of medical practice
- ◇ The Act allows physicians who object to a course of treatment sought by a patient to exercise that objection, while ensuring that the patient gets the care he or she desires in an efficient and professional manner
- ◇ The Act prohibits any woman from being forced to have an abortion without her consent