

ENSURE THAT ILLINOIS ALLOWS FULL ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE

SUPPORT HB 40

Sponsors: Feigenholtz

House Bill 40 strikes a dangerous “trigger” provision in the Illinois abortion law and affirms that Illinois will not go back to the pre-Roe days of illegal abortion.

- By removing the anti-choice “trigger” language from the 1975 Act, HB 40 ensures that women’s health care will be protected in Illinois, regardless of what happens to the Supreme Court in a Trump administration.
There is simply too much risk.

HB 40 removes discriminatory provisions from Illinois law that deny insurance coverage of abortion to many women who depend on Medicaid and State Employee Health Insurance.

Every woman, regardless of whether she has private or government-funded health insurance, should have affordable and comprehensive health care coverage that includes coverage for abortion care, so she can make personal health decisions based on what is best for her and her family.

State Employee Health Insurance

- Aside from a narrow life exception, Illinois law bans abortion coverage from non-contributory (employers cover 100 percent of the premium payments) state employee health plans.
- Under current policy, state employees and their dependents are often denied coverage for reproductive health care that is commonly available to those who get their insurance in the private sector, including denials of coverage for medically necessary abortions or those required because of lethal fetal anomalies

Medicaid

- Medicaid has restricted the use of federal funds for abortion coverage to cases of life endangerment, rape or incest under what is known as the “Henry Hyde Amendment.” Under this policy, health care providers are often deterred from taking Medicaid as a form of payment, because of the confusing web of exceptions and restrictions that apply.
- The “Henry Hyde Amendment” is not good policy. Health programs for women with low incomes should cover birth control, childbirth AND abortion care. All women, regardless of income should have the same right to decide if and when to have children.
- Illinois should join the 15 states¹ that use state funds to provide women with health assistance funds that cover the full range of pregnancy-related care, including a woman’s decision to end a pregnancy. In this time of budget crisis, it is important to note that this bill would have zero cost for the Department of Healthcare and Family Services (DHFS).

HB 40 respects that individuals and their families need to make their own life decisions

When it comes to the most important decisions in life, like whether to become a parent, it is vital that a woman is able to consider all the options available to her. It is not our place to interfere with her decision by withholding coverage. HB 40 is common sense policy that supports a woman’s personal health care decisions.

¹ These 15 states have policies that allow state Medicaid funds to cover abortion services: AK, CA, CT, HI, MD, MA, MN, MI, NJ, NM, NY, OR, VT, WA, WV.

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SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

ACLU of Illinois

American Association of University Women

Chicago Foundation for Women

Equality Illinois

EverThrive Illinois

Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health

Illinois NOW

McHenry County Citizens for Choice

Mujeres Latinas en Accion

National Council of Jewish Women Illinois State Policy Advocacy Network

Personal PAC

Planned Parenthood of Illinois