

# Support the Illinois Reproductive Healthcare Act

HB 2495

House: Kelly Cassidy

Senate: Melinda Bush

The Trump/Pence Administration and their followers in Congress are very direct – their goal is to outlaw reproductive health care, including many contraceptives, and with the changed balance on the Supreme Court, the threat is real. **We must act now before it is too late to protect women in Illinois.**

**With approximately 20 cases headed to the Supreme Court that can erode or overturn *Roe v. Wade*, we CANNOT wait for another election cycle to protect access to reproductive health care and maternal care in Illinois**

## WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR EVERY WOMAN IN ILLINOIS?

The following are currently enjoined Illinois laws that **AGAIN** could become **OUR** law when *Roe* is overturned:

- **Spousal Consent** - A married woman will be REQUIRED to get her husband's consent to get an abortion.
- **Doctor Consent Committees** - Women will have to BEG multiple doctors to gain their approval in order to obtain an abortion, reminiscent of the degrading pre-*Roe* hospital consent committees.
- **Restrictions on certain forms of birth control**
- **24 Hour Waiting Periods** - Abortion will be the ONLY medical procedure with a dangerous and unnecessary mandated waiting period.
- **Misinformation Consent** - Doctors will be required to read INFLAMMATORY anti-choice propaganda that has no scientific or medical basis, such as falsely asserting that abortion causes breast cancer, to every woman seeking an abortion.
- **Hospital Requirement and other TRAP laws** - Despite abortion being SAFER than nearly all other outpatient medical procedures and the abortion pill being as safe as an Advil or Tylenol, all abortions will be required to be performed in hospital settings at extraordinary expense.
- **No Confidentiality** - Patient confidentiality will not be protected as abortion REPORTING requirements sought by anti-choice groups to harass and intimidate women will be in force.
- **Bans assisted reproductive techniques, such as in vitro, and certain forms of prenatal testing**
- **Criminal Penalties** - Doctors will face NUMEROUS criminal penalties for performing an abortion. (The Illinois Abortion Law of 1975, as amended multiple times, treats reproductive health services as criminal acts and imposes criminal penalties on doctors.)

- Establishes the fundamental right to make individual decisions about reproductive health care, including contraception, abortion, and maternity care. This includes birthing decisions like whether to have an induction, epidural anesthesia, or cesarean surgery.
- Provides a critical update and modernization to Illinois' outdated law. The state should treat abortion, contraception and maternal care like all health care, with regulations that reflect current medical standards.
- Requires private health insurance plans in Illinois to cover abortion like they do other pregnancy related care.

## With House Amendments 1 & 2, the bill will:

- Codify current standards of medical practice on who can perform abortions.
  - o Only a licensed and trained physician can perform surgery in Illinois. Advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and physician's assistants (PAs) can only assist a physician in surgery.
  - o APRNs and PAs with authority to prescribe medication can provide abortion-related medications, as they can with other prescriptions.
- Specify that the Illinois Health Care Right of Conscience Act permits conscience-based refusals to provide, refer, or participate in abortion care. This includes health care providers and facilities as well as insurance companies.
- Provide that private insurance policies can charge a co-pay or other cost-sharing limitations for abortion to the same extent as for other pregnancy related care.

## Supporting Organizations:

ACLU of Illinois	Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health	Personal PAC
AIDS Foundation of Chicago	Illinois Choice Action Team	Planned Parenthood of Illinois
American Association of University Women	Illinois NOW	Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri
Catholics for Choice	Indivisible Illinois	Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
Chicago Abortion Fund	Local 881 UFCW	Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
Chicago Democratic Socialists of America	McHenry County Citizens for Choice	Sierra Club Illinois
Chicago Votes	Midwest Access Project	Whole Woman's Health
Citizen Action Illinois	Men4Choice	Whole Woman's Health Alliance
Coalition for a Better Illinois 6th	Mujeres Latinas en Accion	Winnebago County Citizens for Choice
Equality Illinois	NARAL Pro-Choice America	Women's March Illinois
EverThrive Illinois	National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum	
Family Planning Associates	National Association of Social Workers Illinois Chapter	
Health & Medicine Policy Research Group	National Council of Jewish Women Illinois	
Hope Clinic for Women		