

ISSUE FOCUS: Abortion**The Repeal Hyde Art Project: Host a Speaker or Workshop!**

Visual art and other forms of creative expression can be powerful tools in movement building, community education, and legislative advocacy. Hosting a speaker on “art and activism” and/or participating in a hands-on workshop are great ways for NCJW members to engage with issues of reproductive justice.

**What is the Hyde Amendment?**

The Hyde Amendment, enacted by Congress in 1977, withholds coverage of abortion for women who are enrolled in Medicaid and most other federal health plans and programs, discriminating against women because they are poor or based on their type of insurance. With limited exceptions, Hyde and similar bans make abortion more difficult to afford, restricting a woman’s ability to make her own faith-informed decisions about ending a pregnancy. It most harms women struggling to make ends meet, women of color, immigrant women, and young women. As states expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, the number of women facing discrimination will increase. Hyde impedes reproductive justice as each person should be free to make their own decisions about their body, sexuality, and future. *For more details, see “Fact Sheet: Ending Bans of Abortion Coverage” in the [Action Kit](#).*

What is the Repeal Hyde Art Project?

The Repeal Hyde Art Project raises awareness and creates dialogue about the Hyde Amendment through collaborative arts and shareable graphic content. It was founded in 2011 by artist and activist Megan J. Smith, using the symbol of a bird (above and at right) to illustrate resistance, resilience, and collective movement into the future. Since its beginning, Megan has collected 400 birds and facilitated 20 art installation workshops. Megan has also designed artwork for organizations like Advocates for Youth, Backline, and Ibis Reproductive Health to raise awareness about related topics.

**What could this look like in my community?**

Megan is available to give talks about the power of art to create social change. She can also conduct workshops to help NCJW members create a Repeal Hyde Art Project art installation — where activists decorate paper cut-outs of the bird template and creatively display them together, preferably in a public space, with accompanying informative materials to educate the public. Workshops generally take a few hours and require a space where it is possible to hang art on the walls. Participants can range from a dozen to hundreds; Megan can work with you to set up a program that best meets your needs.

This sounds great! What are my next steps?

To set up a presentation or workshop, contact Leanne Gale, NCJW Grassroots Associate, at leanne@ncjwdc.org. The costs include all expenses for Megan’s travel, lodging, and meals, as well as any additional installation materials. An honorarium or speaking fee is preferred but negotiable, depending on resources.

NCJW thanks the Repeal Hyde Art Project for assistance in developing this resource.