

Talking Points

EACH Woman Act

The National Council of Jewish Women's (NCJW) Message

NCJW believes every woman should have comprehensive insurance coverage for the full range of her reproductive health care needs, including abortion, so that she can make personal decisions about her body, health, and future. In keeping with our commitment to reproductive justice, NCJW strives to end the Hyde Amendment and similar bans denying abortion coverage for women enrolled in federal health programs through passage of the **Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance (EACH Woman) Act (HR 1692/S 758)**. The bill — led by Representatives Barbara Lee (D-CA), Diana DeGette (D-CO), and Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) and Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) — would also bar local, state, and federal political interference in the decisions of private health insurers to offer abortion coverage. **Lawmakers must pass the EACH Woman Act so every woman can make her own faith-informed decision about abortion no matter her income, insurance, or where she lives.**

- **The EACH Woman Act would ensure health coverage of abortion for every woman, regardless of her income or type of insurance.** Consistent with the Jewish value *kavod ha bri'ot*, or respect and dignity for all human beings, NCJW believes that women with fewer resources should have equal access to care. The Hyde Amendment primarily restricts abortion coverage through Medicaid, disproportionately harming women struggling to make ends meet, women of color, immigrant women, young women, and LGBTQ individuals. The EACH Woman Act would lift this ban, ending politicians' interference in a woman's exercise of her right to obtain an abortion and ensuring access to safe and legal health care regardless of income level.
- **The EACH Woman Act respects a woman's moral agency and religious liberty by restoring her access to coverage.** Bans on abortion coverage interfere with a woman's moral autonomy — her power to make personal decisions based on her own religious or moral beliefs. It is unjust for lawmakers to enshrine one religious view into law in order to restrict abortion access. Doing so erodes our nation's basic principle of religious liberty. The EACH Woman Act would protect a woman's ability to make her own faith-informed decisions.
- **Coverage of abortion is essential to preserving a woman's health and economic security.** When a woman makes the decision to end a pregnancy, it is important that she can access proper medical care without threatening her health or financial future. Coverage bans jeopardize a woman's ability to receive safe, quality health care from a licensed provider by delaying care and by making abortion more difficult to obtain. What's more, when a woman cannot afford an abortion, the consequences on her and her family can be far-reaching: a woman who is denied abortion care is more likely to fall into poverty than a woman who can obtain the care she needs.