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December 8, 2020

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Educations, and Related Agencies
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

**Faith-Centered, Values-Based, & Religious Organizations
Express Support for the EACH Woman Act**

Dear Representatives Lowey, Granger, DeLauro, and Cole:

The undersigned religious, religiously-affiliated, values-based, and faith-centered organizations and communities represent millions of people of faith and conscience committed to securing universal access to affordable health coverage, including coverage for abortion care. We write to express our strong and unequivocal support for HR 1692, the Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance (EACH Woman) Act.

For over 40 years, the Hyde Amendment has pushed time-sensitive, essential abortion care out of reach for countless Americans by discriminating against those struggling to make ends meet. Now, the measure not only denies abortion coverage through Medicaid, Medicare, and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), but also extends to federal employees and dependents, military personnel and dependents, Peace Corps volunteers, indigenous peoples

receiving care from federal or tribal programs, pregnant individuals in federal prisons and detention centers, pregnant individuals receiving care from community health centers, and survivors of human trafficking. The EACH Woman Act would permanently end Hyde and related coverage bans while prohibiting political interference in private insurance coverage of abortion at all levels of government, ensuring that everyone is able to live safely, to make our own decisions about our health care and futures, and to thrive in our communities with dignity.

Indeed, coverage bans further enshrine systemic racism in our federal laws and regulations and strip the poor of access to abortion, disproportionately impacting those struggling financially; Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities; young people; people living with disabilities; rural communities; immigrants; and LGBTQ individuals. People in the United States are facing severe economic duress compounded by a growing health crisis and firmly institutionalized racism; we cannot afford to further wrong the most vulnerable. As people of faith and conscience, we believe in the inherent dignity and equal worth of all people. We are, therefore, called to treat all individuals with respect, no matter their income, insurance, gender, race, or other factors.

We also believe in the power of compassion to build a just and fair society. Our nation is at its best when our laws match our compassion. A compassionate nation ensures that every single person can access quality, timely medical services from trusted providers when they seek abortion care — regardless of how much they earn, how they are insured, or where they live. Because of our faith traditions, consciences, and deep respect for an individual's moral agency, we support policies grounded in compassion that protect each person's right to care for their own body, health, and well-being and to ensure all others can do the same.

Finally, religious freedom is an essential shared principle undergirding our support of policies that ensure equitable access to abortion. The United States is home to people of many different faiths as well as people with no religious affiliation. We cannot limit an individual's religious liberty by enshrining one set of beliefs into law and restricting their ability to make personal decisions about their pregnancy, health, and family according to their own religious or moral beliefs and conscience. No government committed to human rights and democracy can privilege one religion over another.

Eschewing insurance coverage bans is a moral good. No one should be denied an abortion because of who they are, where they live, or how much they earn. It is long past time for our elected officials to eliminate the Hyde Amendment and all bans that interfere with people receiving the care they need.

Respectfully,

National Council of Jewish Women
Catholics for Choice
African American Ministers In Action
American Jewish World Service
Avodah
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action
Carolina Jews for Justice
Central Conference of American Rabbis
Clergy Advocacy Board of Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Feminist Agenda Network
Florida Interfaith Coalition for Reproductive Health and Justice
Habonim Dror North America
Interfaith Voices for Reproductive Justice
Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action
Jewish Community Action
Jewish Women International
Jewtina y Co.
Just Texas: Faith Voices for Justice
Keshet
Lab/Shul
Methodist Federation for Social Action

Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network (MUUSJN)
National Council of Jewish Women, Arizona Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Atlanta Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Austin Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Bergen County Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Chicago North Shore Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Cleveland Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Colorado Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Columbus Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Essex County Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Dallas Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Houston Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Miami Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Greater New Orleans Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Louisville Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Maryland Action Team
National Council of Jewish Women, Massachusetts State Policy Advocate
National Council of Jewish Women, Michigan Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Minnesota Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Nashville Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Northern Virginia Action Team
National Council of Jewish Women, Peninsula Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Sacramento Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Saddleback Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Sarasota-Manatee Section
National Council of Jewish Women, South Cook Section
National Council of Jewish Women, St. Louis Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Washington State Policy Advocate
New Mexico Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
Rabbinical Assembly
Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
Society for Humanistic Judaism
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights
Texas Freedom Network
Union for Reform Judaism
Women of Reform Judaism
Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual (WATER)