

Talking Points

EACH Act

National Council of Jewish Women's (NCJW) Message

NCJW believes every person should have comprehensive insurance coverage for the full range of reproductive health care, including abortion, so they can make personal decisions about their 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 those enrolled in federal health programs through passage of the **Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance (EACH) Act**. The bill — led by Representatives Barbara Lee (D-CA), Ayanna Pressley (D-MA), Diana DeGette (D-CO), and Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) and Senators Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Patty Murray (D-WA), and Mazie Hirono (D-HI) — would also bar federal political interference in the decisions of private health insurers to offer abortion coverage. **Lawmakers must pass the EACH Act to guarantee that abortion care is there for each of us – however much we earn, wherever we live, and whoever we are.**

- **The EACH Act would ensure health coverage of abortion for every person, regardless of income or type of insurance.** Consistent with the Jewish value *kavod ha bri'ot*, NCJW believes that all deserve respect, dignity, and equal access to the resources necessary to control their own reproductive health care, including insurance coverage of abortion. We know that the legal right to abortion means nothing without access to essential care in reality and that abortion must be affordable and available for anyone who seeks care. However, the Hyde Amendment and related coverage bans have pushed care out of reach due to cost for over forty years, disproportionately harming those struggling to make ends meet; Black, Indigenous, and people of color; immigrants; young people; and LGBTQ individuals. The EACH Act would lift this ban, mandating abortion coverage for those enrolled in government health insurance programs and their dependents.
- **The EACH Act respects individual moral agency and religious liberty by restoring access to coverage.** Bans on abortion coverage interfere with individual moral autonomy — the power to make personal decisions based on one's own religious or moral beliefs. No government committed to human rights and democracy can privilege one religion over another and it is profoundly unjust for lawmakers to enshrine one religious view into law in order to restrict abortion access. Doing so erodes our nation's founding principle of religious liberty. The EACH Act would protect the ability of pregnant individuals to make their own moral and faith-informed decisions about abortion care.
- **Coverage of abortion is essential to advancing public health, economic security, and racial justice.** As Jews, we are called to pursue *tzedek*, or justice, for all, particularly for the most marginalized and oppressed among us. Ending Hyde and related coverage bans is a matter of reproductive justice, of economic justice, of racial justice. Government interference with abortion coverage jeopardizes the health and lives of pregnant people by delaying or blocking access to care and has far-reaching economic consequences. Restricting Medicaid coverage of abortion forces one in four poor women seeking abortion to carry an unwanted pregnancy to term and those who are denied abortion care are more likely to fall into poverty. In contrast, when people can make decisions that are best for their lives, families and communities thrive.