

Talking Points

Abortion Justice Act

National Council of Jewish Women's (NCJW) Message

Judaism supports abortion as health care, allowing and sometimes requiring the procedure when the life of the pregnant person is in danger. Through this lens NCJW works to advance reproductive freedom to ensure everyone can make their own faith-informed decisions about their bodies, lives, and futures. Yet even before *Roe* was overturned, abortion care was inaccessible to many, especially people of color, young people, LGBTQ+ people, and individuals with disabilities. The Abortion Justice Act (HR 4303), introduced by Representative Ayanna Pressley (D-MA), recognizes the realities of a pre and post-*Roe* world and takes a sweeping, intersectional approach to addressing access to abortion care by visioning a just America where abortion care is readily available — without stigma, shame or systemic barriers — for all who seek it, regardless of zip code, immigration status, income, or background. Without the federal right to abortion and state laws banning and restricting care, Congress must pass the Abortion Justice Act to shape the future of abortion access.

- **Almost a third of women of reproductive age in the US are living in a state where abortion is unavailable or severely restricted.** Due to systemic racism, injustice, and lack of access to resources, Black women and Latinas are more likely to experience unintended pregnancies than white women. These restrictions are costing lives; maternal deaths in 2020 were 62 percent higher in states where abortion is heavily restricted than in states where abortion was available.
- **Even before *Roe v. Wade* was overturned, abortion was inaccessible for many.** For people in low-income and marginalized communities, abortion care has never been a given. With barriers to care such as cost and insurance coverage, physical proximity to clinics and access to transportation, culturally competent care, and state restrictions that make it harder to access reproductive health care, these communities are the ones most harmed.
- **The Abortion Justice Act is a comprehensive bill that would build the infrastructure necessary to systematically expand access to care.** The bill would invest in abortion care, including training, research, outreach, doula care, and innovation; require insurance coverage include abortion care; protect patients and providers from criminalization; affirm a legal right to abortion and miscarriage care; remove systemic barriers to care including for immigrant families; and address disparities and systemic racism in the health care system.