

Talking Points: **The EACH Act**

At National Council of Jewish Women, the Jewish value of kavod ha bri'ot — honoring the dignity of every person — guides our belief that everyone deserves respect and equitable care. Ensuring equal access to reproductive health care resources, including insurance coverage of abortion, is key to actualizing this vision. We know that the legal right to abortion — where it still exists — is meaningless without access. 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**.

Background

- First passed in 1976, the Hyde Amendment continues to be included in annual appropriations legislation. Hyde bans federal funding for abortion, with narrow exceptions made only for rape, incest, and life endangerment.
- Hyde's exclusions mean that abortion care is not covered for millions of people in our country, including Medicaid beneficiaries, federal employees and their dependents, military personnel, Peace Corps volunteers, Indigenous people receiving care from federal or tribal programs, and survivors of human trafficking.
- The onerous restrictions imposed by Hyde have pushed care out of reach due to cost for nearly fifty years, disproportionately harming women; those struggling to make ends meet; Black, Indigenous, and people of color; immigrants; young people; and LGBTQ+ individuals.

Talking Points

- The Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance (EACH) Act, introduced by Representative Ayanna Pressley (D-MA) and Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), would reverse Hyde and ensure abortion coverage for those enrolled in government health insurance programs and their dependents. The EACH Act would also bar federal political interference in the decisions of private health insurers to offer abortion coverage.
- Bans on abortion coverage interfere with individual autonomy — the power to make personal decisions based on one's own religious or moral beliefs. The EACH Act would protect the ability of pregnant individuals to make their own faith-informed decisions about abortion care by restoring access to coverage.
- 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, economic justice, and racial justice.
- **Lawmakers must pass the EACH Act to help build a more equitable future that prioritizes access to abortion for everyone.**