

Talking Points: **Women's Health Protection Act**



At National Council of Jewish Women, we believe that access to abortion is critical to ensuring bodily autonomy, social and economic equality, and religious freedom. Any attack on access to health care undermines the Jewish value of *kavod ha bri'ot* — honoring the dignity of every person. Currently, abortion bans and restrictions across the country have pushed reproductive health care out of reach for many. The ability to provide or receive care should not depend on one's zip code or income; rather, comprehensive, affordable, and equitable reproductive health care is a basic human right. We must pass the **Women's Health Protection Act (WHPA)** to safeguard abortion access nationwide.

Background

- Abortion care is becoming increasingly inaccessible in the United States. In 2022, the Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* effectively repealed the constitutional right to abortion as established in *Roe v. Wade*.
- In the years since, 41 states across the country have imposed restrictions and bans on access to abortion. These oppressive laws impact one in three women of reproductive age in the US and create new barriers to health care by increasing costs, delaying time-sensitive procedures, and straining the resources of providers in states where abortion is still legal.
- These adverse impacts fall hardest on those who already face structural barriers to accessing care, including women; Black, Indigenous and people of color; those working to make ends meet; LGBTQ+ people; immigrants; young people; those living in rural areas; and people with disabilities.

Talking Points

- Abortion care is a right that must be restored, and federal legislation is necessary to do so. WHPA would re-establish a nationwide right to abortion care throughout the United States, protecting the right to access abortion free from medically unnecessary restrictions and bans — including mandatory waiting periods, biased counseling, two-trip requirements, and mandatory ultrasounds.
- Our religion recognizes that abortion is essential health care. Jewish law views abortion as not only permissible, but required when necessary to safeguard the wellbeing of a pregnant person. Above all, Judaism teaches us to respect and affirm the dignity of all people, *kavod habriot*, and to pursue justice, *tzedek*.

Congress must pass WHPA to protect access to abortion and to help us build a society where all women, children, and families can thrive in our communities with equality, dignity, and autonomy.