

October 2, 2015

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As organizations committed to advancing reproductive health, rights, and justice, and related social justice causes, we appreciate the important steps your Administration has taken to improve the wellbeing of women and their families, including the expansion of reproductive health care services. Moreover, the actions you have taken in prior budget proposals to eliminate certain abortion restrictions have made a real impact in driving momentum in Congress to modify such policies. Building on this tradition of executive leadership is critically important to our work.

This year, Congress made history by introducing the Equal Access to Abortion Coverage (EACH Woman) Act – bold legislation to reverse the Hyde amendment and related abortion funding restrictions. Introduced in July 2015, the EACH Woman Act now has just over 100 cosponsors in the House and is revolutionizing the way members of Congress fight against coverage bans.

We are asking you to answer this historic call for change by taking a strong stand against the Hyde Amendment and related abortion funding restrictions, and eliminating them from your Fiscal Year 2017 budget. Such restrictions on coverage have a far-reaching impact on women enrolled in Medicaid and Medicare; federal employees and their dependents; Peace Corps Volunteers; Native American women; women in federal prisons and immigration detention centers; and residents of the District of Columbia.

Withholding coverage for abortion care creates profound hardships for people across the country, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving high-quality health care, such as low-income women, immigrant women, young women, women of color, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people. For many, coverage for abortion care means the difference between getting the health care they need and being denied that care. For example, approximately one in four Medicaid-eligible women who would have had an abortion if funds were available must carry the pregnancy to term because they are unable to afford the cost of that care.¹

The impact of such a denial can have long-term, devastating effects on a woman and her family's economic future. A recent study found that a woman who seeks but is denied abortion care is more likely to fall into poverty than a woman who is able to get the care she needs.² The

¹ Stanley K. Henshaw et al., "Restrictions on Medicaid Funding for Abortions: A Literature Review", (Guttmacher Institute, June 2009):27, <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/MedicaidLitReview.pdf>.

² Foster DG, Dobkin LM, Upadhyay UD. "Denial of abortion care due to gestational age limits." *Contraception*.2013;87(1):3-5. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23122688>

removal of abortion funding restrictions in your FY 2017 budget would be the cornerstone of a lasting legacy in an Administration that has already made great strides in the alleviation of poverty.

Times have changed. The Hyde amendment is not written in stone. These policies have harmed our families, our communities, and our health for far too long. A movement led by Millennials, communities of color, and reproductive and economic justice advocates is rising up against abortion funding restrictions, and we urge you to be a part of it by eliminating all abortion coverage restrictions in your FY 2017 budget.

Signed,

4000 Years for Choice
A Better Balance
A Fund, Inc.
A is For
Abortion Care Network
ACCESS Women's Health Justice
Advocates for Youth
American Civil Liberties Union
American Sexual Health Association
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO (APALA)
Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon
Baltimore Abortion Fund
Black Women's Health Imperative
Blue Ridge AAF, Inc.
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice
California Women's Law Center
Carolina Abortion Fund
Catholics for Choice
Center for Community Change Action
Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)
Center for Reproductive Rights
Center on Reproductive Rights and Justice at UC Berkeley School of Law
Charlottesville National Organization for Women (CNOW)
Chicago Abortion Fund
CHOICES. Memphis Center for Reproductive Health
Citizens for Choice
Civil Liberties and Public Policy Program
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights
Emergency Medical Assistance, Inc.
Feminist Majority Foundation
Feminist Women's Health Center
Forward Together
Fountain Street Church Choice Fund
Frontera Fund
Fund Texas Choice

GetEQUAL Action
Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
Healthy and Free Tennessee
Ibis Reproductive Health
In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda
Institute for Science and Human Values
Ipas
Jane Fund of Central Massachusetts
Jewish Women International
Kentucky Health Justice Network
Kentucky Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
Law Students for Reproductive Justice
Legal Voice
The Lilith Fund for Reproductive Equity
Mabel Wadsworth Women's Health Center
Maternal and Child Health Access
Medical Students for Choice
Mississippi Reproductive Freedom Fund
Momentum Alliance
Ms. Foundation for Women
NARAL Pro-Choice America
National Abortion Federation
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)
National Council of Jewish Women
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Health Law Program
National Institute for Reproductive Health
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
National Network of Abortion Funds
National Organization for Women
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Women's Health Network
National Women's Law Center
New Jersey Abortion Access Fund
New York Abortion Access Fund
NM Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
Options Fund
Oregon Foundation for Reproductive Health
Physicians for Reproductive Health
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Positive Women's Network-USA
Preterm (Ohio)
Pro-Choice Resources
Religious Institute
Reproductive Health Access Project
Reproductive Health Technologies Project

Restaurant Opportunities Center United
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)
Sistahs Talkin' Back
SisterReach
Society for Humanistic Judaism
Southwest Women's Law Center
Surge NW
Texas Equal Access Fund
The CAIR Project
The Freedom Fund
The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
UltraViolet
Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation
United We Dream
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity
Vermont Access to Reproductive Freedom
Virginia NOW
West Fund
Western States Center
Women Donors Network
Women Have Options, Ohio
Women's Emergency Network
Women's Health & Education Fund of Rhode Island
Women's Health Specialists, Feminist Women's Health Centers of California
Women's Medical Fund (Pennsylvania)
Women's Reproductive Rights Assistance Project (WRRAP)
West Virginia FREE

cc: Valerie Jarrett, Tina Tchen, Jordan Brooks, Cecilia Munoz, Jeffrey Zients, Kiran Ahuja, J. Nadine Gracia, Shaun Donovan, Dr. Julian Harris, Martha Coven