

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.<sup>1</sup>

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.<sup>2</sup> The

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<sup>1</sup> 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>.

<sup>2</sup> 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