



District II



Abortion Access Agenda: Legislative Session 2023

When it comes to access to abortion care it will take years to rebuild what the Supreme Court and anti-equality policy makers have stripped away, and even then, we must do more to not only restore the federal right to abortion and reproductive autonomy, but to build a system of care and decision-making rooted in equity and access for all who need it.

New York must continue to meet this moment and move policy forward.

It is in that spirit that we support passage of the following bills in the 2023 legislative session:

- **Reproductive Freedom and Equity Program:** While the Reproductive Health Act of 2019 created a legal framework for the provision of abortion care in New York, that framework is meaningless without access. Even before Roe was overturned, gaps in abortion accessibility have existed in our state and across the country. Many people lack the money necessary to pay for abortion care and to cover the cost of travel, lodging, childcare, and other expenses required to obtain that care. This legislation would create a sustained funding mechanism through the New York State Department of Health to provide grants to abortion providers, abortion funds, and practical support organizations – the entities that help individuals navigate otherwise insurmountable barriers to accessing care and make the right to care a reality for people seeking abortions.

Senate: Passed; Assembly: Needs to pass A.361-A Gonzalez-Rojas

- **Hospital Transparency:** No one should be turned away from a hospital when they need health care. And yet, hospitals often deny treatment based on the bureaucratic decision-making of non-medical personnel rather than sound medical science. To make matters worse, because information about what care hospitals provide is often impossible to decipher, patients cannot determine whether their local hospital provides the care they need. This legislation will give New York the tools to identify regions in the state where particular types of care are unavailable and to understand the impacts of such gaps on communities statewide. Further, it will offer prospective patients the tools they need to determine whether the hospital, or hospitals, in their area provides the care they seek prior to admission. This is particularly important as more people travel to New York for abortion care and some abortion providers see longer wait times.

Senate: Passed; Assembly: Needs to pass A.733-A Rozic

- **Protecting Provider Conscience:** Although it seems unthinkable, some hospitals limit the provision of medically accurate information and health care services for reasons that are not based on sound medical science or hospital capacity but instead on the bureaucratic decision-making of nonmedical personnel. In practice, these exclusions can limit access to critically needed care. This legislation would ensure providers can follow their own consciences when it comes to ensuring patients get the health care they need

in two critical ways. First, it would prohibit hospitals from preventing health care providers from communicating medically accurate and comprehensive information about a patient's diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment options, as well as information about available services and where and how to obtain them. Second, it would prohibit hospitals from limiting the provision of services to treat pregnancy complications and miscarriages when those services are consistent with accepted standard of care or when the absence of medical attention would pose a risk to the patient's life or cause bodily harm.

Senate and Assembly: Need to Pass A.5297 Paulin / S.6616 May

- **Prohibiting Professional Misconduct Findings for All Providers of Reproductive Health Care and Gender Affirming Care:** The provision of reproductive health care and gender affirming care is being attacked across the country. This bill would build upon protections enacted last session that shield physicians and physician assistants from findings of professional misconduct based solely on the provision of reproductive health care in two important ways. First, the bill would prohibit a finding of professional misconduct based solely on the provision of gender affirming care. Second, it would expand the protections passed last year to prohibit a finding of professional misconduct for all types of medical professionals involved in the delivery of reproductive health care and gender affirming care, namely nurse practitioners, midwives, and registered nurses.

Senate and Assembly: Need to pass A.6269 Rosenthal / S.5636 Webb

- **Providing Protections to Health Providers Who Perform Legally Protected Health Activities:** Last session, New York lawmakers passed a series of bills aimed at protecting providers and patients against attacks from hostile states for the provision of, receipt of, or assistance in accessing abortion care. This legislation builds on these important provisions to further clarify that New York State will not be complicit in attempts by other states to punish the provision, receipt, or support of reproductive health care services, including abortion care.

Senate: Passed; Assembly: Needs to pass A.1709 Reyes