

Application for Consideration by the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County (DPCCC)

- Send applications to: issues@contracostadems.com
- Applications may refer to resolutions or legislation.
- It is recommended that applications be submitted at least 72 hours prior to the next scheduled Issues Committee meeting. The Committee generally meets on the Monday before the first Thursday of the month.
- Please limit your application to 4 pages if possible.

Section I: Administrative Information

Name or Title of Issue: *Women's Health Protection Act of 2022*

Date of application: *July 29, 2022*

Name of organization or individual submitting application: *Craig Cheslog*

Contact email or phone number: *925-708-5845*

Name of person who will address the Issues Committee, as required (if different): *n/a*

Contact email or phone number: *n/a*

Section II: Background Information

What is the summary of your issues' intent and impact? Include bill number if appropriate.

The Women's Health Protection Act, H.R. 8296, would create a federal right for patients to receive and providers to provide abortion care, ensuring every American—regardless of where they live—can make decisions about their own lives and bodies.

Equal access to abortion care is essential for social and economic equality, reproductive autonomy, and the right for people who can become pregnant to determine their own lives. But, in many places, accessing abortion care is extremely difficult, and for many people nearly impossible, because of state-level laws that restrict and ban access to abortion. These restrictions are even more serious after the Supreme Court's Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization decision.

This bill prohibits governmental restrictions on the provision of, and access to, abortion services. Governments would not be able to limit a provider's ability to prescribe certain

drugs, offer abortion services via telemedicine, or immediately provide abortion services when the provider determines a delay risks the patient's health.

The bill also prohibits governments from requiring a provider to perform unnecessary medical procedures, provide medically inaccurate information, comply with credentialing or other conditions that do not apply to providers whose services are medically comparable to abortions, or carry out all services connected to an abortion.

The bill also would prohibit the ability of governments to require patients to make medically unnecessary in-person visits before receiving abortion services, disclose their reasons for obtaining such services, or banning abortion services before fetal viability or after fetal viability when a provider determines the pregnancy risks the patient's life or health.

If you are requesting a position on legislation, please answer Questions 2-5.

1. *What legislative body is considering this legislation (Federal/House, Federal/Senate, California Assembly, California Senate, or other Local Jurisdiction?) **United States Congress***
2. *Please include any companion bill numbers for legislation moving through the other house. **S. 4132***
3. *What is the bill title? **The Women's Health Protection Act***
4. *Who are the author and any co-authors of the bill? **The legislation is authored by Rep. Judy Chu (CA-27). The co-sponsors include Reps. Lois Frankel (FL-21), Veronica Escobar (TX-16), and Ayanna Pressley (MA-07).***
5. *What position are you asking the Democratic Party of Contra Costa County to take? **Support***
6. *How does this issue align with the California Democratic Party platform and/or values? If it does not currently align with the platform, please explain why it is a Democratic value that we seek to include in a future platform. Please include specific name/date of platform plank, previous legislation, or resolution. **A support position would be consistent with the CADEM Platform plank in the Women's plank that calls for, "Preserve confidential, unrestricted access to affordable, high quality, culturally sensitive health care services, including the full range of reproductive services, contraception and abortion, without requiring guardian, parental, or spousal consent or notification, or judicial intervention." It is also consistent with CADEM Resolution 22-07.111, adopted on July 10, 2022, which condemned the overturning of Roe v. Wade and the threats it creates for women and CADEM Resolution 22-07.112, adopted on July 10, 2022, which condemned the Supreme Court's abandonment of the principle of stare decisis.***

7. What are the expected outcomes of your issue for residents of Contra Costa County? Please include any reference sources that will help our committee understand the issue/history surrounding the legislation, including URLs and web links. The more our committee knows, the better we can review and analyze the issue. *While California is working to make itself a sanctuary state for abortion rights, we should seek to help people in states that are working to ban this necessary medical procedure.*
8. What is the timeline regarding your issue? Are there any deadlines or time constraints that the committee should be aware of when considering this matter, and making recommendations to the Central Committee membership? *The House of Representatives passed H.R. 8296 by a 219-210 vote on July 15, 2022. The United States Senate could vote on the bill, but it is facing the threat of a filibuster.*
9. How does your issue relate to other current or proposed legislation? *This legislation is a part of several bills responding to the opinion, and Thomas concurrence, in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization.*
10. What has been the experience of your issue in previous legislative sessions and/or other states? *This is the first effort to codify the protections that had existed for reproductive health care prior to the Supreme Court's decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization.*
11. What is the fiscal impact of your issue? *The Congressional Budget Office has not provided a cost estimate as of the date of my application submission.*
12. Who are the primary proponents (including legislators) of this issue, and what resources do they bring to this effort? *The legislation passed off the floor of the House of Representatives on July 15, 2022, with 219 Democratic votes in a 219-210 majority. Reps. DeSaulnier, McNerney, Swalwell, and Thompson each voted "yea."*
13. Are there other elected officials or organizations that have signed on in support? *The bill is supported by the Center for Reproductive Rights, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, NARAL Pro-Choice America, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, and 92 organizations in a letter organized by the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (<https://www.naacpldf.org/wp-content/uploads/SupportWHPA-Senate-5.10.22.pdf>).*
14. Who are the primary opponents? (Please be Specific) What arguments are used to oppose this policy? *National Right to Life Committee, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Human Life Action.*
15. Are there other elected officials or organizations that have declined support? If so, why? *All Republicans in the House of Representatives who voted cast a "nay" vote.*

Section III: Requested Actions in Support

If endorsed by DPCCC, how best can the DPCCC support this proposal? (The DPCCC Issues Committee will let you know how much support we can offer.)

- X Use DPCCC's name/logo on fact sheets, endorsee list*
- X Post information on DPCCC website*
- ☐ *Written/oral testimony*
- X Inform Contra Costa County Elected Delegation*
- X Inform Endorsed Democratic Local Elected Officials*
- X Action Alerts to members*
- ☐ *Letters to the editor*
- ☐ *Send to CADEM Legislation Committee*
- ☐ *Other_____*

Endorsements will be shared on the DPCCC website and in other advocacy venues

If you have any questions, need additional assistance, or require ADA accommodations, please let us know by email at issues@contracostadems.com. You can also reach us by phone or text at (206) 619-5030. All information and communications are confidential.

*For more information on DPCCC's Issues Committee, visit:
<https://www.contracostadems.com/leadership>*

March 2022, Subject to final approval by Rules Committee