

CTA: Pass the Women's Health Protection Act

Date: 09.14.2021 (updated 09.28.2021)

Description: (from actforwomen.org)

The Women's Health Protection Act (WHPA): federal legislation that will protect the right to access abortion care throughout the United States.

Equal access to abortion care—everywhere—is essential for social and economic equality, reproductive autonomy, and the right to determine our own lives. But anti-abortion state lawmakers have passed *hundreds* of restrictive laws making abortion care extremely difficult to access for many people—despite constitutional protections.

THE RIGHT TO ABORTION IS NOT REAL IF ONLY CERTAIN PEOPLE CAN ACCESS IT.

WHPA addresses the current attacks on abortion rights across the U.S.

WHPA protects the right to access abortion free from medically unnecessary restrictions and bans on abortion—including mandatory waiting periods, biased counseling, two-trip requirements, and mandatory ultrasounds.

WHPA would create a statutory right for health care providers to provide abortion care, and a corresponding right for their patients to receive that care, free from medically unnecessary restrictions that single out abortion and impede access.

WHPA works toward reproductive, economic, and racial justice.

The elimination of abortion restrictions is central to Reproductive Justice and the human right to maintain bodily autonomy and to live in safe and sustainable communities. People hurt most by abortion restrictions are those already facing barriers to accessing health care and who are bearing the brunt of the pandemic and economic crisis—particularly Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), women, and those working to make ends meet.

WHPA was reintroduced in the 117th Congress by lead sponsors Representatives Judy Chu (D-CA), Lois Frankel (D-FL), Ayanna Pressley (D-MA), and Veronica Escobar (D-TX) and Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and Tammy Baldwin (D-WI). WHPA was introduced with 176 supporters in the House and 48 in the Senate, more than in any previous Congress at introduction.

Resources and details:

<https://actforwomen.org/the-womens-health-protection-act/>

<https://www.vox.com/20930358/codify-roe-wade-womens-health-protection-act-supreme-court-nancy-pelosi-democrats>

Our Call to Action (09.28.21)

Now that the House has passed the bill, the Senate needs to act! Call or write Smith and Klobuchar and pressure them to act on this important legislation. Remind them that they need to get rid of the flipping filibuster first (which they already know).

Sample script:

Dear Senator (Smith/Klobuchar):

My name is [name] and I'm a member of Indivisible [St. Paul, St. Croix Valley, etc.] Now that the House has passed the Women's Health Protection Act we really need the Senate to do the same. This legislation can't wait. The stakes are too high and the threats to women's reproductive rights all across the country, not just in Texas, are imminent.

Please, get rid of the filibuster and pass this legislation. Do it now.

Also, are you planning to attend the "Bans Off Our Bodies" march in Minneapolis on October 2nd? We hope to see you there making some noise with us.

Our Call to Action: (from 09.14.21)

Senate Co-Sponsors: (both Klobuchar and Smith are co-sponsors)

<https://actforwomen.org/the-womens-health-protection-act/senate-co-sponsors/>

Good news! The House passed the bill last week (week of 9/20/21) House Co-Sponsors: (in MN, only McCollum and Omar are co-sponsors)
<https://actforwomen.org/the-womens-health-protection-act/house-co-sponsors/>

- 1) Write or call your Senators and House Rep and thank them (or urge them) for supporting the Women's Health Protection Act.

Suggested script:

Dear [Klobuchar/Smith/McCollum/Omar]:

Thank you for co-sponsoring the Women's Health Protection Act. I have been watching over the years as restrictions on the right to abortion have been passed in states around the country, and as Texas recently passed a radical abortion ban, S.B. 8, my heart sank and my thoughts went to the many people who will be unable to access the healthcare they need, including the right to an abortion.

As your constituent, I am asking you to use your influence and power to pass the Women's Health Protection Act (WHPA) of 2021 as soon as possible. I know that you strongly support the bill, and I urge you to work with your undecided colleagues to come out in support of this important legislation.

Also, I appreciate the gender neutral language in the bill itself, but I urge you to consider changing the name of the bill as well. Women are not the only ones who need abortion services.

Thank you,

- 2) If your reps have not come out in support, or if you have friends in other parts of MN or around the country who have Senators or Reps who have not gotten on-board, please ask your friends to contact them.

Suggested script for contacting reps who are not yet on-board:

For Non-Supporting Senators

The U.S. Supreme Court has allowed Texas's radical abortion ban, known as S.B. 8, to end most abortion care in the state. As a result, Texans are desperately trying to figure out how to get the essential health care they need. A fundamental right should never vary from state to state.

As your constituent, I am urgently asking you to support the Women's Health Protection Act (WHPA) of 2021 to protect the right to access abortion throughout the U.S.

The people hurt most by S.B. 8 and all abortion restrictions are those who already face barriers to accessing health care—particularly Black, Indigenous and People of Color, women, and those working to make ends meet.

In an equitable and just society, all health care, including abortion, is accessible for everyone—not just those in certain states or with the means to travel.

Abortion access in the U.S. is in grave danger—and it's clear that the time for Congress to act is NOW.

I urge you to stand with people and communities fighting for racial, economic, and reproductive justice and support WHPA.

For Non-Supporting Representatives

In the dead of night, the U.S. Supreme Court allowed Texas's radical abortion ban, known as S.B. 8, to end most abortion care in the state. As a result, Texans are desperately trying to figure out how to get the essential health care they need. A fundamental right should never vary from state to state.

As your constituent, I am urgently asking you to VOTE YES on the Women's Health Protection Act (WHPA) of 2021 to protect the right to access abortion throughout the U.S.

The people hurt most by S.B. 8 and all abortion restrictions are those who already face barriers to accessing health care—particularly Black, Indigenous and People of Color, women, and those working to make ends meet.

In an equitable and just society, all health care, including abortion, is accessible for everyone—not just those in certain states or with the means to travel.

Abortion access in the U.S. is in grave danger—and it's clear that the time for Congress to act is NOW.

Thank you for leading the fight for WHPA.