

Talking Points

Women's Health Protection Act

NCJW believes that access to comprehensive, affordable, and equitable health care is a basic human right. The Supreme Court's decision overturning *Roe v. Wade* means millions of people cannot access the vital health care they need, when they need it. The Women's Health Protection Act (WHPA, HR 12/ S 701), introduced by Representatives Judy Chu (D-CA), Lois Frankel (D-FL), Ayanna Pressley (D-MA), and Veronica Escobar (D-TX), and Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) would re-establish a nationwide right to access abortion care throughout the United States. **Congress must pass WHPA to ensure social and economic equality, reproductive autonomy, and the right to determine our own lives.**

- **Abortions are increasingly inaccessible in the US.** Since the Supreme Court's decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*, abortion is currently banned in more than a dozen states, with more restrictions and bans expected. These oppressive laws create new barriers to accessing health care by increasing costs (especially for travel) and delaying time-sensitive procedures — and they strain the resources of providers in states where abortion is still legal. They also fall hardest on those who already face structural barriers to accessing health care, including women; Black, Indigenous and People of Color; those working to make ends meet; LGBTQ+ folks; immigrants; young people; individuals living in rural areas; and people with disabilities.
- **Abortion care is a right that must be restored.** In 2020, almost one in ten people who received an abortion traveled out of their home state for care. Since *Roe* was overturned, this number has only increased as a third of women of reproductive age now live more than an hour from the closest abortion facility. Federal legislation is necessary to restore the right to abortion. Consistent with the Jewish value of pursuing *tzedeck* (justice) for all, NCJW opposes laws that have created a patchwork of abortion access and pushed basic health care out of reach for many. Access to reproductive health care should not depend on one's zip code. Our religion supports abortion as health care — indeed, Jewish law views abortion as not only permissible, but required when necessary to safeguard the mental and physical wellbeing of a pregnant person. Above all, Judaism teaches us to respect and affirm the dignity of all people.
- **WHPA would create a new tool for safeguarding access to high-quality care and securing constitutional rights by protecting patients and providers from political interference.** WHPA guarantees providers the right to deliver abortion care — and people the right to receive that care — without limitations that impede access to care. Importantly, the bill would also establish clear guidance for courts considering whether a requirement impedes access to abortion care in violation of WHPA.