

SUPPORT HB 2495

The Illinois Reproductive Health Act



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The Trump/Pence Administration and their followers in Congress are very direct – their goal is to outlaw reproductive health care, including many contraceptives, and with the changed balanced on the Supreme Court, the threat is real. **We must act now before it is too late to protect women in Illinois.**

Illinois law needs to protect the health and safety of women in our state – this year. We cannot wait for another election cycle or for more opportunities for the courts to limit access to reproductive health care and maternal care. The time is now for Illinois law recognize that reproductive care is health care, not criminal activity.

The RHA provides a critical update and modernization to Illinois' outdated law so that the state treats abortion, contraception and maternal care like all health care, with regulations that reflect current medical standards.

WHAT IS AT STAKE FOR EVERY WOMAN IN ILLINOIS?

The following are currently enjoined Illinois laws that **AGAIN** could become **OUR** law when **Roe** is overturned:*

- **Spousal Consent** - A married women will be **REQUIRED** to get her husband's consent to get an abortion. (Enjoined in *Wynn v. Scott*, 449 F. Supp. 1302 (N.D. Ill. 1978), *aff'd sub nom.*, *Wynn v. Carey*, 599 F. 2d 193 (7th Cir. 1979))
- **Doctor Consent Committees** - Women will have to **BEG** multiple doctors to gain their approval in order to obtain an abortion, reminiscent of the degrading pre-*Roe* hospital consent committees. (Enjoined in *Wynn*.)
- **Restrictions on certain forms of birth control** (Enjoined in *Charles v. Carey*, 627 F.2d. 772 (7th Cir. 1980).)
- **24 Hour Waiting Periods** - Abortion will be the **ONLY** medical procedure with a dangerous and unnecessary mandated waiting period. (Enjoined in *Charles*.)
- **Misinformation Consent** - Doctors will be required to read **INFAMMATORY** anti-choice propaganda that has no scientific or medical basis, such as falsely asserting that abortion causes breast cancer, to every woman seeking an abortion. (Enjoined in *Charles*.)
- **Hospital Requirement and other TRAP laws** - Despite abortion being **SAFER** than nearly all other outpatient medical procedures and the abortion pill being as safe as an Advil or Tylenol, all abortions will be required to be performed in hospital settings at extraordinary expense. (Enjoined in *Ragsdale* litigation, 941 F.2d 501 (7th Cir. 1991).)
- **No Confidentiality** - Patient confidentiality will not be protected as abortion **REPORTING** requirements sought by anti-choice groups to harass and intimidate women will be in force. (Enjoined in *Wynn*, *Charles* and *Herbst* litigation.)
- **Bans assisted reproductive techniques, such as in vitro, and certain forms of prenatal testing** (Enjoined in *Lifchez v. Hartigan*, 735 F. Supp. 1361 (N.D. Ill. 1990).)
- **Criminal Penalties** - Doctors will face **NUMEROUS** criminal penalties for performing an abortion. (The Illinois Abortion Law of 1975, as amended multiple times, treats reproductive health services as criminal acts and imposes criminal penalties on doctors.)

In Addition-Private insurance companies, that freely cover male enhancement drugs and procedures, will be free to deny coverage for abortion care and birth control, even when a woman's health is threatened or she is a victim of rape or incest. The future of HB 40 will be put into question.

WHY SUPPORT HB 2495

What does it mean to support HB 2495

- You agree that a woman’s health must drive important medical decisions during pregnancy.
- You agree that a woman should be able to make all of her own decisions about prenatal care, medical interventions, and the circumstances under which she gives birth. This includes decisions like whether to have an induction, epidural anesthesia, or cesarean surgery.
- You agree that that reproductive health is a fundamental right—including using or refusing birth control.
- You agree that Illinois should treat reproductive health care as health care, not as a criminal act.

What does it mean to oppose HB 2495

- Opposing this measure is putting Illinois women at risk of being harmed by the Trump Administration agenda that seeks to steal decision-making power away from women and their doctors.
- Opposing this measure is supporting antiquated laws that place doctors and women at risk of being charged criminally for seeking medical care.

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

ACLU of Illinois
 AIDS Foundation of Chicago
 American Association of University Women
 Chicago Abortion Fund
 Coalition for a Better Illinois 6th
 Equality Illinois
 EverThrive Illinois
 Family Planning Associates
 Health & Medicine Policy Research Group
 Hope Clinic
 Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health
 Illinois Choice Action Team
 Illinois NOW
 Local 881 UFCW
 McHenry County Citizens for Choice
 Midwest Access Project

Men4Choice
 Mujeres Latinas en Accion
 NARAL Pro-Choice America
 National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
 National Association of Social Workers Illinois Chapter
 National Council of Jewish Women Illinois
 Personal PAC
 Planned Parenthood of Illinois
 Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri
 Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
 Sierra Club Illinois
 Whole Woman’s Health
 Whole Woman’s Health Alliance
 Women’s March Illinois