

## Cosponsor the Women's Health Protection Act

JCPA is deeply concerned about the growing efforts to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and limit women's reproductive health care access, with states around the nation taking up extreme anti-abortion bills. These measures undermine women's reproductive freedom, endanger women's health, and criminalize women who get abortions and doctors who perform them. [In fact, in Alabama, a grand jury has already indicted a woman who was shot in the stomach while pregnant for the death of her unborn child, while dropping charges against the shooter.](#)

Though Alabama's new law is the most extreme so far, other states, such as Georgia, Ohio, Kentucky, and Mississippi, have adopted or are close to adopting bills that effectively ban abortion, including "heartbeat" and other similarly restrictive laws. Nearly 30 abortion bans have been introduced, passed, or signed into law in 2019 alone. JCPA has been committed to safeguarding and strengthening the spirit and impact of *Roe v. Wade* since the Supreme Court ruling in 1973. Ending a pregnancy is a difficult and personal decision that should only be made by a woman in consultation with her doctor and others she chooses to involve.

- **Members of Congress should cosponsor and support the Women's Health Protection Act (S. 1645/H.R. 2975).** The bill would permit health care providers to deliver abortion services without limitations that are more burdensome than those imposed on medically comparable procedures, do not significantly advance patient health or the safety of abortion, or make abortion more difficult to access.
- **Medically unnecessary regulations increase costs, decrease efficiency and number of providers, and delay procedures, negatively impacting the quality of safe and legal abortion and shuttering clinics across the country.** Further, a woman's power to make her own, faith-informed decisions is obstructed when she is required to receive inaccurate or misleading information or clinically unnecessary services like ultrasounds, in-person counseling, and waiting periods.
- **With more than 20 pending lawsuits challenging restrictive or unconstitutional state laws, now is the time to address these threats with federal legislation.** Due to legislative attacks designed to undermine Supreme Court precedent, patients' ability to make their own decisions about reproductive health care varies widely from state to state.

*Dissent: The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America has long standing policy of not joining in JCPA [statements] on reproductive rights: "[The Orthodox Union] cannot endorse a public policy that does not reflect the complex response of halacha to the abortion issue. In most circumstances, the halacha proscribes abortion, but there are cases in which halacha permits and indeed mandates abortion. The question of abortion is a sensitive one and personal decisions in this area should be made in consultation with recognized halachic authorities.*

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