

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE 2016

WHEREAS, for too long, right-wing politicians have interfered with basic reproductive health decisions by restricting or outright banning insurance coverage for reproductive health care and pushing unnecessary, burdensome regulations that jeopardize affordable access to safe, legal, and quality care;

WHEREAS, under the guise of protecting women's health, many states have enacted Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers (TRAP) laws aimed at shutting down abortion clinics. These laws single out the medical practices of abortion providers and impose medically unnecessary and financially devastating regulations, such as requiring doctors to have hospital admitting privileges in nearby hospitals and/or requiring clinics to be equipped as ambulatory surgical centers (in effect, mini-hospitals)--while allowing men access to the full range of their health care needs;

WHEREAS, clinic closures due to TRAP laws further cause undue burden on women and their families because of travel expenses, and other allied costs associated with accessing necessary health services;

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court, in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*, the most significant abortion-rights case since *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, is considering upholding Texas's TRAP law, effectively taking away the constitutional right to a safe and legal abortion;

WHEREAS, extremist religious ideologues have brought numerous challenges to the Affordable Care Act's birth control coverage mandate, insisting employers may force their religious beliefs on their employees by excluding contraception from their employer-based health plans, and the Supreme Court has expressed sympathy for that view in both *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc.* and *Zubik v. Burwell*;

WHEREAS, NOW is proud to partner with the All* Above All coalition and other organizations to lift the bans that deny abortion coverage;

WHEREAS, the EACH Woman Act would require the federal government in its capacity as an insurer, employer or health care provider to include affordable abortion care coverage, and would prohibit state and local governments from prohibiting or restricting the inclusion of abortion care in private insurance plans;

WHEREAS, the Women's Health Protection Act would prohibit states from enacting regulations that single out abortion services or make abortion services more difficult to access and do not significantly advance women's health or the safety of abortion services; and

WHEREAS, the Access to Birth Control Act would prohibit pharmacists from refusing on religious or ideological grounds to fill a prescription for contraception;

WHEREAS, the Zika virus, which can cause severe health defects in newborns, is expected to become an endemic in several southern US states by 2017;

WHEREAS, Zika is sexually transmissible by both men and women, therefore a threat throughout the United States;

WHEREAS, women's health advocates in nations currently affected by Zika are demanding unrestricted access to early abortion for any woman who chooses this option based on concern that she or her sexual partner has been exposed;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Organization for Women (NOW) will include in its 2016-2017 Strategic Action Program a national action campaign to win passage of the EACH Woman Act, the Women's Health Protection Act, the Access to Birth Control Act, and Do No Harm Act to ensure that every woman, whatever her financial means and wherever she lives, can get accessible, affordable, safe, and legal abortion and other reproductive health care when she seeks it.