February 13, 2017

Dear Senators Blumenthal and Baldwin and Representatives Chu, Fudge, and Frankel:

As members of the Act for Women campaign, we write to thank you for your leadership on the **Women’s Health Protection Act**. This campaign unites national, state, and local organizations working to support and advance this critical legislation.

As this Congressional session begins, we want to make clear our strong commitment to the Women's Health Protection Act. It is no secret that anti-choice leaders and activists have increasingly sought new ways to undermine women’s access to abortion care. Even with the landmark Supreme Court victory this past summer in *Whole Woman’s Health v. Hellerstedt*, many state legislators are still determined to erode, if not eradicate, the promise of *Roe v. Wade*. Since 2011, states have enacted 334 abortion restrictions, including laws that interfere with the practice of medicine by mandating unnecessary procedures and unconstitutional bans on abortion before viability.

On June 27, 2016, the United States Supreme Court struck down two such deceptive laws in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*: one that required abortion providers to have admitting privileges at a local hospital and one that required clinics providing abortion to convert to mini-hospitals. This momentous decision reaffirmed a woman’s constitutional right to access safe, legal abortion and, as Justice Ginsberg wrote in her concurring opinion, warned that "Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers laws…that 'do little or nothing for health, but rather strew impediments to abortion,'… cannot survive judicial inspection."[1]

The Supreme Court has confirmed loud and clear that undue burdens on women's access to abortion are unconstitutional. And while it is essential that the courts protect our rights, it is also the responsibility of Congress to enact policy that advances reproductive health and rights. Today many American women’s constitutional rights still depend on their zipcode. Legislative attacks have diminished access to essential reproductive health care through a patchwork of laws that rolls back a woman’s right to make the best health care decisions for herself and her family. We need a federal law that would make these restrictions unlawful, thus allowing medical providers to do the important work of providing safe, legal, high-quality health care to all women across the country, regardless of where they live.
We need the **Women’s Health Protection Act**, which would prohibit states from imposing restrictions like the clinic shutdown laws challenged in the Supreme Court case. But the bill also reaches beyond that—blocking many other types of laws that limit women’s access to safe and legal abortion services and shame women for their health care decisions, such as laws that mandate medical procedures not compatible with the standard of care, require abortion patients to make additional, medically unnecessary trips to the clinic, unjustifiably restrict access to medication abortion, or ban abortion before viability.

After years of relentless assaults on women’s health, safety, and constitutional rights, it’s time we had federal laws that put our health and rights first. We need the **Women’s Health Protection Act**. We commend you for your leadership on this critical legislation and pledge our support in working toward its passage.

Sincerely,

National Organizations
Abortion Care Network
Alliance for Justice
American Association of University Women (AAUW)
American Civil Liberties Union
American Medical Student Association
American Society for Emergency Contraception
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Association of Reproductive Health Professionals
Black Women's Health Imperative
Catholics for Choice
Center for Reproductive Rights
Center on Reproductive Rights and Justice at UC Berkeley School of Law
Civil Liberties and Public Policy at Hampshire College
Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights
Ibis Reproductive Health
Institute for Science and Human Values, Inc.
Jewish Women International
Medical Students for Choice
NARAL Pro-Choice America
National Abortion Federation
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Council of Jewish Women
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Health Law Program
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Organization for Women
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Women’s Law Center
People For the American Way
Physicians for Reproductive Health
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Population Institute
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
The Reproductive Health Access Project
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)
Ultraviolet
Unitarian Universalist Women’s Federation

State and Local Organizations
Allentown Women’s Center (Pennsylvania)
Atlanta Women’s Center (Georgia)
Cherry Hill Women’s Center (New Jersey)
Choices (Tennessee)
Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (Colorado)
Delaware County Women’s Center (Pennsylvania)
Feminist Women’s Health Center (Georgia)
Hartford GYN Center (Connecticut)
Healthy and Free Tennessee (Tennessee)
NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado
Northland Family Planning Centers (Michigan)
Mabel Wadsworth Center (Maine)
Oklahoma Coalition for Reproductive Justice (Oklahoma)
Philadelphia Women’s Center (Pennsylvania)
Preterm (Ohio)
Pro-Choice Resources (Minnesota)
Red River Women’s Clinic (North Dakota)
SisterReach (Tennessee)
Southwestern Women’s Surgery Center (Texas)
Southwest Women’s Law Center (New Mexico)
The Hope Clinic for Women (Illinois)
Wisconsin Alliance for Women’s Health (Wisconsin)
Women's Medical Fund (Pennsylvania)

(Ginsburg, J., concurring).