

THE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ACT

VOTE YES

House Sponsors: Cassidy-Welch-Feigenholtz-Evans-Gordon Booth- Jones-Stuart-Hernandez-Williams-Conroy-Moylan-Didech-WalkerStava Murray-Harris-Moeller-Villanueva-Ramirez-Harper-Slaughter-Mah-Ortiz-Morgan-Gong Gershowitz-Guzzardi-Gabel-Mussman-Robinson-Connor-Carroll- Martwick-Andrade-Arroyo-Zalewski- Villa-Willis-Davis-Ammons

The Reproductive Health Act does the following:

- **Establishes the fundamental right to make individual decisions about reproductive health care**, including contraception, abortion, and maternity care. This includes birthing decisions like whether to have an induction, epidural anesthesia, or cesarean surgery.
- Provides a critical update and modernization to Illinois' outdated law. The state should treat abortion, contraception and maternal care like all health care, with **regulations that reflect current medical standards**.
 - Repeals laws that are not in effect and not enforced because of court rulings, such as the "Partial-birth" Abortion Ban Act. The federal "Partial-birth" Abortion ban will remain in effect and cannot be changed by state law.
- **Includes a viability standard for the small number of abortions that occur later in pregnancy**.
 - Limits abortion after fetal viability to those circumstances when it is necessary to protect the life or health of the patient.
 - "Fetal viability" means that, in the professional judgment of the attending health care professional, based on the particular facts of the case, there is a reasonable likelihood of a fetus' sustained survival outside the uterus without the application of extraordinary medical measures.
- **Codifies current standards of medical practice on who can perform abortions**.
 - Only licensed and trained physicians can perform surgery in Illinois. Advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and physician's assistants (PAs) can only assist a physician in surgery.
 - APRNs and PAs with authority to prescribe medication can provide abortion-related medications, as they can with other prescriptions.
- **Specifies that the Illinois Health Care Right of Conscience Act permits conscience-based refusals** to provide, refer, or participate in abortion care. This includes health care providers and facilities as well as insurance companies.
- **Requires private health insurance plans in Illinois to cover abortion** like they do other pregnancy related care.
 - Allows private insurance policies to charge a co-pay or other cost-sharing limitations for abortion to the same extent as for other pregnancy related care.

For more information contact: [Khadine Bennet, ACLU of Illinois, 312-607-3355](#)
[Brigid Leahy, Planned Parenthood of Illinois, 217-553-8976](#)

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With approximately 20 cases headed to the Supreme Court that can erode or overturn *Roe v. Wade*, we CANNOT wait for another legislative cycle to protect access to reproductive health care and maternal care in Illinois.

The following are currently enjoined (not enforced) Illinois laws that AGAIN could become OUR law when *Roe* is overturned:

- **Spousal Consent** - A married woman will be REQUIRED to get her husband's consent to get an abortion.
- **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.
- **Restrictions on certain forms of birth control**
- **24 Hour Waiting Periods** - Abortion will be the ONLY medical procedure with a dangerous and unnecessary mandated waiting period.
- **Misinformed Consent** - Doctors will be required to read INFLAMMATORY 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Bans assisted reproductive techniques**, such as in vitro, and certain forms of prenatal testing
- **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.)

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS:

ACLU of Illinois	Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health	Planned Parenthood of Illinois
AIDS Foundation of Chicago	Illinois Choice Action Team	Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri
American Association of University Women	Illinois NOW	Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
Catholics for Choice	Indivisible Illinois	Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
Chicago Abortion Fund	Local 881 UFCW	Sierra Club Illinois
Chicago Democratic Socialists of America	McHenry County Citizens for Choice	Whole Woman's Health
Chicago Foundation for Women	Midwest Access Project	Whole Woman's Health Alliance
Chicago NOW	Men4Choice	Winnebago County Citizens for Choice
Chicago Votes	Mujeres Latinas en Acción	Women's March Illinois
Citizen Action Illinois	NARAL Pro-Choice America	
Coalition for a Better Illinois 6th Equality Illinois	National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum	
EverThrive Illinois	National Association of Social Workers Illinois Chapter	
Family Planning Associates	National Council of Jewish Women Illinois	
Health & Medicine Policy Research Group	Personal PAC	
Hope Clinic for Women		

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