

January 18, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson and Leader Jeffries,

The undersigned 73 organizations write in strong opposition to the proposed bill, H.R. 6918 or the “Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act.” This bill is a blatant attempt to restrict and stigmatize abortion care, as it blocks a Proposed Rule from the Administration to strengthen the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program and prevent the misuse of TANF funds for anti-abortion centers, also known as crisis pregnancy centers (CPCs). We urge you to vote against this bill and support the right of all people to access accurate information and evidence-based care when making personal medical decisions, including the decision to have an abortion.

TANF is a block grant to states to fund income assistance, work supports, and other services, including child care, for low-income children and parents. The Administration’s Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, “Strengthening Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) as a Safety Net and Work Program” - which this bill seeks to block - clarifies that CPCs are likely a misuse of TANF funds because they do not meet the purpose of preventing pregnancy pursuant to TANF’s third statutory purpose.

Since 2021, more than \$60 million in TANF funds have gone to CPCs, despite the fact that most CPCs are anti-abortion organizations with a demonstrated history of providing deceptive and coercive information to manipulate pregnant people and scare or dissuade them from having an abortion.¹ CPCs intentionally prey on and coerce young people, people of color, and those with low incomes into making certain reproductive health decisions.

When pregnant people, including young people, go to an anti-abortion center, they assume that these are all clinics run by licensed health care providers who will provide medically-accurate, evidence-based health care. These centers, however, give out false, incomplete, or inaccurate medical information, often from untrained individuals, and push unproven, potentially dangerous

¹ An Analysis of Federal Funding for Crisis Pregnancy Centers. Health Management Associates (copy with author; official report to be published in 2024).

practices. For example, despite the lack of evidence or data, anti-abortion counseling centers continue to expand their support for abortion “reversal,” a practice that the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists [says](#) is “not based on science and do[es] not meet clinical standards.”

A [major study](#) of 607 anti-abortion centers across nine states found that almost two-thirds of anti-abortion centers “promoted patently false and/or biased medical claims about pregnancy, abortion, contraception, and reproductive health care providers.” Additionally, fewer than half reported having a licensed medical professional on staff. And yet, an [alarming lack](#) of oversight and accountability of CPCs enables their deceptive practices to continue, thus preventing pregnant people from getting the care they need.

When a person has decided to have an abortion, they deserve to be able to access medically sound care. Instead, anti-abortion centers oppose abortion and use their time with pregnant patients to shame and intentionally trick them out of getting the care they are seeking. H.R. 6918 is a deliberately deceptive attempt to further control people’s bodies, lives, and futures.

For these reasons, we strongly oppose this harmful legislation.

Sincerely,

ACCESS REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE
ACT for Women and Girls
Act Now: End AIDS (ANEA) Coalition
AIDS Alabama
AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families
AIDS Foundation Chicago
American Atheists
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Public Health Association
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Avodah
Black Women for Wellness
Black Women for Wellness Action Project
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Center for Reproductive Rights
Community Legal Aid Society Inc. (Delaware)
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)
Elizabeth Cullen
Equality California

Essential Access Health
Freedom From Religion Foundation
Guttmacher Institute
Health Not Prisons Collective
Healthy Teen Network
Housing Works, Inc.
Ibis Reproductive Health
If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice
In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda
Interfaith Alliance
Ipas
Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Legal Action Center
National Abortion Federation
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Council of Jewish Women
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Health Law Program
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice
National Network to End Domestic Violence
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Women's Health Network
National Women's Law Center
National Working Positive Coalition
Nebraska Appleseed
New Jersey Citizen Action
Partners in Abortion Care
Physicians for Reproductive Health
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Positive Women's Network-USA
Power to Decide
Reproaction
Reproductive Freedom for All (formerly NARAL Pro-Choice America)
RHITES (Reproductive Health Initiative for Telehealth Equity & Solutions), a fiscally sponsored project of the Hopewell Fund
San Francisco Black & Jewish Unity Coalition
SEIU

Shriver Center on Poverty Law
SIECUS: Sex Ed for Social Change
Silver State Equality - Nevada
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
The Sero Project
The Well Project
THRIVE SS
Together
Treatment Action Group
Union for Reform Judaism
Vivent Health
Washington Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition
Women of Reform Judaism
Women's Health Specialists
Women's Rabbinic Network