



National Council of Jewish Women, Los Angeles  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Los Angeles Coalition for Reproductive Justice Praises City Council  
for Passing Resolution to Reinstate Insurance Coverage for  
Abortion Care**

***City Council urges Congress to pass EACH Woman Act***

LOS ANGELES - The Los Angeles Coalition for Reproductive Justice (LACRJ) today praised its City Council for passing a resolution calling on Congress and President Obama to reinstate insurance coverage for abortion services for women enrolled in public insurance programs by enacting the Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance (EACH) Woman Act. The EACH Woman Act would ensure abortion access for every woman who receives care or insurance through the federal government by prohibiting political interference in insurance coverage of abortion.

"We're so proud of Los Angeles' leadership at the forefront of the growing movement to end discriminatory restrictions on access to abortion," said Janette Robinson Flint, executive director of Black Women for Wellness, a leader in the Los Angeles Coalition for Reproductive Justice. "Every woman deserves to be able to make decisions about whether to parent regardless of where she lives or how she is insured. This resolution sends a strong message to the nation that we will no longer tolerate political interference in women's health care decisions."

For 40 years, politicians have used the Hyde Amendment to deny coverage for abortion care for those insured through Medicaid. Although California provides Medi-Cal coverage of abortion, many other California women face the same restrictions under bans on abortion coverage for military service members who receive health insurance from TRICARE, veterans who utilize the VA, Californians who work for the federal government, Native Americans, Peace Corps volunteers, and those being held in federal prisons or detention centers, including those detained for immigration purposes. Building on the momentum of the recent Supreme Court decision in *Whole Women's Health v. Hellerstedt*, LACRJ is proud to stand with people from coast to coast who are marking the 40<sup>th</sup> year under the Hyde Amendment by committing to take bold action against this insidious ban as part of a broad, coordinated effort led by the All\* Above All coalition.

This resolution falls squarely within Los Angeles' long history of leadership on social justice issues, including its support for a federal bill making it illegal to discriminate in the workplace based on sexual orientation or gender identity and a resolution in support of Planned Parenthood, as well as its public opposition to legislation cutting family planning grants and restricting access to abortion.

"In Los Angeles we know that women should have access to the health care that's best for them," said Councilwoman Nury Martinez. "Too often, Congress plays politics with the lives and health of the most vulnerable women in society, and I'm proud to lead the City Council in saying that needs to stop now. They should repeal the Hyde Amendment and pass the EACH Woman Act."

"The Los Angeles City Council is unequivocal that inequality in access to health care, including abortion, will not be tolerated," said Celinda Vázquez, vice president of external affairs at Planned Parenthood Los Angeles. "We're proud of the example our city's leaders are setting and urge leaders across the country to join them in rejecting the discriminatory policies that prevent all women from accessing abortion."

"Ending these bans is one step toward ending the system-wide inequities that so many in our communities face," said Andrea Miller, president of the National Institute for Reproductive Health, a member organization of the All\* Above All coalition. "The National Institute has supported local resolutions like this one across the country and applauds Los Angeles for joining the national movement to protect access to abortion for all women, particularly those for whom the cost of an unwanted pregnancy or abortion would be devastating."

The Los Angeles Coalition for Reproductive Justice (LACRJ) is a coalition of over 20 social justice organizations collaborating to enhance reproductive health, rights, and justice in Los Angeles. The Coalition has a long history of engaging the community to promote reproductive health for the most underserved. LACRJ leverages the expertise of our member base, both statewide and local, to enhance the leadership of reproductive justice organizations and promote reproductive justice strategies. In turn, these community leaders leverage their partnerships and resources to seek parity in decision-making, funding and resource distribution for reproductive health programs and legislation. Coalition members include Black Women for Wellness, California Latinas for Reproductive Justice, National Council of Jewish Women|Los Angeles, National Health Law Program, Planned Parenthood Los Angeles, and many other organizations.

Similar resolutions calling to lift the restrictions on abortion coverage have passed in recent years in localities across the country, including Cambridge, Mass.; Cook County, Ill.; Ithaca, NY; Madison, Wis.; Philadelphia, Penn.; San Francisco, Calif.; Seattle, Wash.; and Travis County, Texas.

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#### **ABOUT NCJW|LA**

The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) is a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates committed to the welfare and well-being of the Los Angeles Community. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW strives for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children, and families and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms. NCJW|LA serves more than 12,000 individuals through our Community Mental Health and Supportive Services, Scholarships, Talkline, Youth Educational Programs and Services, Back 2 School Store, intern training programs and our clothing assistance projects. NCJW|LA social justice programs provide education and legislative advocacy on issues that affect and impact women, children and families in the areas of children's rights, economic justice, healthcare, human trafficking, reproductive justice, LGBTQ rights, and gender related violence. All donations to our 8 Council Thrift Shops support the programs and services of NCJW|LA. NCJW|LA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization (Tax ID #95-1641433). Donate Today to Council Thrift (800)400-6259. To Get Help Call 877-655-3807 or for more info visit [www.ncjwla.org](http://www.ncjwla.org), call 323-651-2930, or email [info@ncjwla.org](mailto:info@ncjwla.org). **Donate Today to Council Thrift (800)400-6259. To Get Help Call 877-655-3807** or for more info visit [www.ncjwla.org](http://www.ncjwla.org), call 323-651-2930, or email [info@ncjwla.org](mailto:info@ncjwla.org).