



The National Voice for Direct-Care RNs

WASHINGTON DC
8455 Colesville Road
Suite 1100
Silver Spring MD 20910
phone: 800-287-5021
fax: 240-235-2019

OAKLAND
155 Grand Avenue
Suite 100
Oakland CA 94612
phone: 800-504-7859
fax: 510-663-1625

July 5, 2022

Dear Senator,

As the nation's largest union and professional association of registered nurses, National Nurses United calls on the U.S. Senate to take a stand for reproductive health justice and urgently pass the Women's Health Protection Act (WHPA), sponsored by Senator Blumenthal. As members of a health care profession that is 90 percent female, nurses understand that abortion is an essential part of health care, and that a patient's right to control their own body is at the very basis of a free and just society. Further, we stand with President Biden and urge you to suspend the filibuster to allow for a vote on this crucial legislation on the Senate floor without delay.

The Supreme Court's decision on June 24 in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization radically abolished 50 years of progress on reproductive rights and represents the largest revocation of health care rights and services ever in American history. The U.S. Senate has a solemn obligation to take immediate action to restore these rights and benefits by passing the WHPA. Lives hang in the balance.

As nurses, we have a duty to advocate for our patients and their right to make their own health care decisions. The basic tenets of ethical health care dictate that patients should enjoy autonomy, self-determination, and dignity over their bodies, their lives, and the health care they receive. Registered nurses understand that abortion is a basic health care service, and codifying the protections established by Roe v. Wade would ensure that patients are able to choose what is best for them.

The Women's Health Protection Act establishes a statutory right for health professionals to provide abortion care without any medically unnecessary restrictions or limitations, and a statutory right of patients to receive that care. With the Supreme Court's egregious encroachment on reproductive rights, it is critical that Congress swiftly takes steps to protect access to abortion and other reproductive health care.

Without access to abortion services, patients may be at risk of illness and death due to pregnancy or may be at risk of avoidable complications from unsafe and illegal abortion practices. Patients should have the right to seek abortion care with the counsel of a trusted healthcare provider regardless of where they live, and it is critical that Congress codify that right.

Further, access to quality reproductive health care allows people to make decisions for themselves whether and when to have children, a choice that is essential for full participation in our society. Reproductive health services are also fundamental to ensuring

economic justice for women across the country. Working class women and women of color will be particularly hurt by restrictions on abortion access.

It is clear that suspension of the filibuster will be required to secure a vote on this bill. The filibuster is an archaic and anti-democratic Senate rule, and it should not stand in the way of restoring women's reproductive health rights. We urge you to suspend the filibuster in order to pass the Women's Health Protection Act, restoring full reproductive health rights to all Americans.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

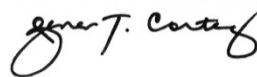
Sincerely,



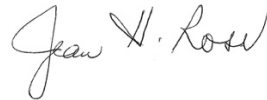
Bonnie Castillo, RN
Executive Director, National Nurses
United



Deborah Burger, RN
President, National Nurses United



Zenei Cortez, RN
President, National Nurses United



Jean Ross, RN
President, National Nurses United