

Reproductive Health Care Accessibility Act

Senators Patty Murray (D-WA) and Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)

Representative Ayanna Pressley (D, MA-7)

BACKGROUND

Everyone deserves to decide if, when, and how to start and raise a family—including the roughly one in four adults with disabilities, who report wanting children as much as those without disabilities do. But women with disabilities have long experienced discrimination and barriers when accessing sexual and reproductive health care. They are also less likely to receive contraception counseling and timely prenatal care, experience a higher rate of sterilization, and are at a greater risk for adverse pregnancy outcomes. And they face other barriers to accessing reproductive care, such as a lack of accessibility at health care facilities, accessible medical diagnostic equipment, accessible travel, and health care providers trained on how to treat and address the unique, diverse needs of this population.

The continued attacks on reproductive health care in recent years have ripped away women's right to decide for themselves whether or not to keep a pregnancy—and now more than ever, people with disabilities need to be able to get the informed and accessible sexual and reproductive health care they deserve.

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

Senators Murray and Duckworth's *Reproductive Health Care Accessibility Act* would lower barriers to sexual and reproductive care and help ensure people with disabilities get timely access to culturally competent health care. Specifically, their bill would:

- Provide grant funding to carry out training programs for health care professionals providing reproductive health care for individuals with disabilities;
- Establish grants to expand the health care provider workforce by increasing the number of people with disabilities in those professions;
- Provide grant funding to carry out education programs for entities with a demonstrated expertise in serving individuals with disabilities, focused on the sexual and reproductive health care needs of this population;
- Create a new national technical assistance center to provide recommendations and best practices regarding reproductive health care for people with disabilities; and
- Direct the Department of Health and Human Services to carry out a study to analyze reproductive health care for people with disabilities.

The *Reproductive Health Care Accessibility Act* is supported by: American Civil Liberties Union, All* Above All, Catholics for Choice, Center for American Progress, In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda, National Abortion Federation, National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum, National Council of Jewish Women, National Disability Rights Network, National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association, National Health Law Program, National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice, National Network of Abortion Funds, National Partnership for Women and Families, National Women's Law Center Action Fund, Physicians for Reproductive Health, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Power to Decide, and Reproductive Freedom for All.