

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2972

To ensure affordable abortion coverage and care for every woman, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 8, 2015

Ms. LEE (for herself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MOORE, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. HONDA, Mr. FARR, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. NADLER, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. BEYER, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. GUTIÉRREZ, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. FRANKEL of Florida, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. TONKO, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. BASS, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. POCAN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. O'ROURKE, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. WELCH, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. COHEN, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. KILMER, and Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means and Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To ensure affordable abortion coverage and care for every woman, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Equal Access to Abor-

5 tion Coverage in Health Insurance (EACH Woman) Act

6 of 2015”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress makes the following findings:

9 (1) Affordable, comprehensive health insurance

10 that includes coverage for a full range of pregnancy-

11 related care, including abortion, is critical to the

12 health of every woman.

13 (2) Neither a woman’s income level nor her

14 type of insurance should prevent her from having ac-

15 cess to a full range of pregnancy-related care, in-

16 cluding abortion services.

17 (3) No woman should have the decision to have,

18 or not to have, an abortion made for her based on

19 her ability or inability to afford the procedure.

20 (4) Since 1976, the Federal Government has

21 withheld funds for abortion coverage in most cir-

22 cumstances. As a 2013 analysis by the Guttmacher

1 Institute shows, this affects women of reproductive
2 age in the United States who are insured through
3 the Medicaid program, as well as women who receive
4 insurance or care through other Federal health plans
5 and programs.

6 (5) Moreover, 25 States also prohibit abortion
7 coverage in private insurance plans within or beyond
8 health insurance marketplaces under the Patient
9 Protection and Affordable Care Act, according to an
10 analysis of State policies by the Guttmacher Insti-
11 tute.

12 (6) A report by the Center for Reproductive
13 Rights details how restrictions on abortion coverage
14 interfere with a woman's personal decisionmaking,
15 with her health and well-being, and with her con-
16 stitutionally protected right to a safe and legal med-
17 ical procedure.

18 (7) Restrictions on abortion coverage have a
19 disproportionate impact on low-income women,
20 women of color, immigrant women, and young
21 women, according to reports by both the Center for
22 American Progress and the Guttmacher Institute.
23 Also according to the reports, these women are al-
24 ready disadvantaged in their access to the resources,
25 information, and services necessary to prevent an

1 unintended pregnancy or to carry a healthy preg-
2 nancy to term.

3 **SEC. 3. ABORTION COVERAGE AND CARE REGARDLESS OF**
4 **INCOME OR SOURCE OF INSURANCE.**

5 (a) ENSURING ABORTION COVERAGE AND CARE
6 THROUGH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN ITS ROLE AS
7 AN INSURER, EMPLOYER, OR HEALTH CARE PRO-
8 VIDER.—The Federal Government shall—

9 (1) ensure coverage for abortion care in public
10 health insurance programs including Medicaid,
11 Medicare, and the Children’s Health Insurance Pro-
12 gram;

13 (2) in its role as an employer or health plan
14 sponsor, ensure coverage for abortion care for par-
15 ticipants and beneficiaries; and

16 (3) in its role as a provider of health services,
17 ensure abortion care is made available to individuals
18 who are eligible to receive services in its own facili-
19 ties or in facilities with which it contracts to provide
20 medical care.

21 (b) PROHIBITING RESTRICTIONS ON PRIVATE INSUR-
22 ANCE COVERAGE OF ABORTION CARE.—

23 (1) FEDERAL RESTRICTIONS.—The Federal
24 Government shall not prohibit, restrict, or otherwise

1 inhibit insurance coverage of abortion care by State
2 or local government or by private health plans.

3 (2) STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESTRIC-
4 TIONS.—State and local governments shall not pro-
5 hibit, restrict, or otherwise inhibit insurance cov-
6 erage of abortion care by private health plans.

7 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

8 It is the sense of the Congress that—

9 (1) the Federal Government, acting in its ca-
10 pacity as an insurer, employer, or health care pro-
11 vider, should serve as a model for the Nation to en-
12 sure coverage of abortion care; and

13 (2) moreover, restrictions on coverage of abor-
14 tion care in the private insurance market must end.

15 **SEC. 5. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

16 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to have any
17 effect on any Federal, State, or local law that includes
18 more protections for abortion coverage or care than those
19 set forth in this Act.

20 **SEC. 6. SEVERABILITY.**

21 If any portion of this Act or the application thereof
22 to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such inva-
23 lidity shall not affect the portions or applications of this

- 1 Act which can be given effect without the invalid portion
- 2 or application.

