



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE, 2020**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

S.B. NO. 2539, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 4, 2020      **TIME:** 9:30 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 229

**TESTIFIER(S):** Clare E. Connors, Attorney General, or  
Daniel K. Jacob, Deputy Attorney General

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Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General makes the following comments.

The purpose of this bill is to require insurance companies to provide coverage for a spectrum of sexual and reproductive health care services, including family planning, abortion, and postpartum care.

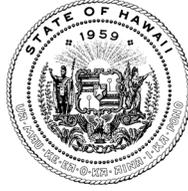
Under section 1311(d)(3)(B) of the Affordable Care Act and 45 C.F.R. section 155.170, a state may only require a Qualified Health Plan to add benefits if the state defrays the cost of the additional benefits, unless the proposed new benefit is directly attributable to State compliance with Federal requirements to provide Essential Health Benefits after December 31, 2011.

This bill would require Qualified Health Plans to provide coverage for the cost of a spectrum of sexual and reproductive health care services. Some of the benefits this bill would mandate, including well-woman exams and services related to cessation of tobacco use, are currently required to be covered by health insurance plans at no cost to the insured. See 26 C.F.R. section 54.2713. Other benefits mandated by this bill however, such as services relating to voluntary sterilization and abortion, may be considered additional benefits because they were neither mandated by state law prior to December 31, 2011, nor directly attributable to compliance with Federal requirements after December 31, 2011. If so, the State may be required to defray the costs.

At this time, our department is unaware of a state that has been subjected to the obligation to defray the cost for additional benefits. Therefore, there are no prior

examples of how the State would meet its obligation and what specific procedures would be necessary to fulfill the obligation. Our department's best understanding is that after the Qualified Health Plan issuer submits the issuer's costs attributable to the additional mandate, the Legislature would need to appropriate the money during the following legislative session and propose a mechanism to distribute the money.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN  
LT. GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310  
P.O. BOX 541  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809  
Phone Number: 586-2850  
Fax Number: 586-2856  
cca.hawaii.gov

CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN  
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Tuesday, February 4, 2020  
9:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**On the following measure:  
S.B. 2539, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE**

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Colin Hayashida, and I am the Insurance Commissioner of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (Department) Insurance Division. The Department offers comments on this bill.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) require health insurers, mutual benefit societies, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for a comprehensive category of reproductive health services, drugs, devices, products, and procedures; and (2) prohibit discrimination in the provision of reproductive health care services.

This bill sets forth coverage for preventive care services that may be viewed as new mandates:

- Section 2, on page 2, line 19 to page 6, line 6 applies to individual accident and health or sickness policies;

- Section 3 on page 10, line 6 to page 13, line 13 applies to group accident and health or sickness policies;
- Section 4 on page 17, line 12 to page 20, line 19 applies to individual or group hospital or medical service plan contracts; and
- Section 9 on page 35, line 19 applies to policies, contracts, plans, or agreements issued by health maintenance organizations.

The addition of new mandated coverage may trigger section 1311(d)(3) of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), which requires states to make payments to defray the costs of any benefits, in addition to the essential health benefits of the State's qualified health plan under the PPACA. 45 Code of Federal Regulations section 155.170(a)(2) also provides that "[a] benefit **required by State action** taking place on or after January 1, 2012, other than for purposes of compliance with Federal requirements, is considered in addition to the essential health benefits" (emphasis added).

The federal Department of Health and Human Services recently proposed rulemaking to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act addressing states' defrayment and obligations. The HHS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2021; Notice Requirement for Non-Federal Governmental Plans (HHS Notice)<sup>1</sup> states, in pertinent part: "At [45 CFR] § 156.111, we propose to require states to annually report to HHS . . . any state-required benefits applicable to the individual and/or small group market that are considered in addition to EHB[.]" HHS Notice at page 184. The HHS Notice further provides: "We are also proposing at [45 CFR] § 156.111(d)(2) to specify that if the state does not notify HHS of its required benefits considered to be in addition to EHB . . . HHS will determine which benefits are in addition to EHB for the state for the applicable plan year." HHS Notice at page 140.

Pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes section 23-51, any proposed mandate providing coverage for care requires the passage of a concurrent resolution requesting

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<sup>1</sup> This document is scheduled to be published on February 6, 2020. The unpublished PDF version is available at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/02/06/2020-02021/benefit-and-payment-parameters-notice-requirement-for-non-federal-governmental-plans>.

the State Auditor to prepare and submit a report assessing the social and financial impacts of the proposed mandate.

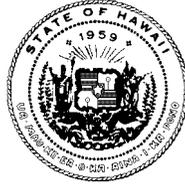
Section 4 of the bill on page 20, lines 14 to 19 presents enforcement difficulties, as 42 United States Code section 300gg-13 does not provide a detailed list of services and instead references guidelines and recommendations issued by agencies.

Section 6 of the bill on page 29, lines 12 to 16 amends the definition of “contraceptive supplies” by adding the phrase, “regardless of whether they are to be used by the insured or the partner of the insured, and regardless of whether they are to be used for contraception or exclusively for the prevention of sexually transmitted infections.” This amendment seemingly mandates coverage for drugs, devices, or products that are not intended for use by the insured, as well as drugs, devices, or products that are intended only for infection prevention, and not for contraception.

Additionally, the effective date of the bill conflicts with the applicability of certain provisions to plans issued on or after a date certain. While this bill has an effective date of March 15, 2021, and applies to all plans issued or renewed on or after March 15, 2021, section 6 on page 25, line 19 and section 8 on page 31, line 2 amend HRS sections 431:10A-116.6 and 432:1-604.5, respectively, to apply to contracts issued on or after January 1, 2020.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT  
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

P. O. Box 339  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 3, 2020

**TO:** The Honorable Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

**FROM:** Pankaj Bhanot, Director

**SUBJECT: SB 2539 – RELATING TO HEALTH CARE**

Hearing: February 4, 2020, 9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 229, State Capitol

**DEPARTMENT'S POSITION:** The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of the bill and offers comments on the bill as it pertains to coverage of services provided through Med-QUEST.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this bill is to ensure comprehensive coverage for the full spectrum of sexual and reproductive health care services, including family planning and abortion, for all of Hawaii's people.

DHS supports the intent of this bill regarding Med-QUEST beneficiaries. DHS notes that it is already providing coverage for these services and observes strong non-discrimination policies independent of this legislation.

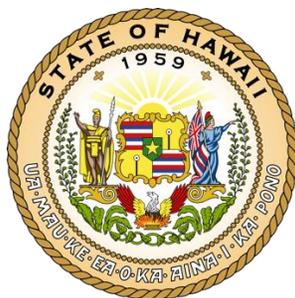
DHS currently covers the reproductive health, family planning, and preventive benefits described in the bill for Med-QUEST beneficiaries. DHS believes that access to these treatments and services is, and should be, a fundamental priority of the Med-QUEST program. Coverage of these services in Med-QUEST is not dependent on the Affordable Care Act (ACA), so coverage would continue even if the ACA were amended or repealed.

DHS does not discriminate, and would not discriminate, in the coverage of any service on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual

orientation, age, or disability. This commitment is not dependent on federal regulations tied to the ACA or the text of the ACA itself. Discrimination goes against the core principles of the agency. Those principles will remain even if the ACA is changed.

DHS notes that Section 11 of the bill may have an unintended effect on some Medicaid providers. Section 11 makes discrimination in the coverage of, or the payment for, preventive care and contraceptive services a violation of Chapter 489, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). This provision could impact Medicaid providers that would not perform or make referrals for some services in accordance with federal mandates that bar organizations that violate those mandates from receiving federal funding. Section 11 could be read to make them subject to a state law that is opposed to federal mandates. DHS is currently evaluating the bill for this potential impact.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



‘O kēia ‘ōlelo hō’ike no ke  
**Komikina Kūlana Olakino o Nā Wāhine**

Testimony on behalf of the  
Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women  
**Khara Jabola-Carolus, Executive Director**

Prepared for the Senate Committee on CPH

In Support of SB2539  
February 4, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 229

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Honorable Members,

The Hawai‘i State Commission on the Status of Women supports SB2539, which would require health insurers, mutual benefit societies, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for a comprehensive category of reproductive health services, drugs, devices, products, and procedures. The bill, if passed, would also prohibit discrimination in the provision of reproductive health care services.

The future of women’s health has never been so uncertain. This measure is a necessary step to ensure that women and LGBTQ individuals in Hawai‘i do not lose access to no-copay preventive services such as birth control, breastfeeding support and supplies, domestic and interpersonal violence screenings, gestational diabetes screening, well-woman exams, and life-saving cancer screenings.

SB2539 would also expand these coverage requirements by requiring coverage of the full range of sexual and reproductive health care services, including abortion and treatment to avoid HIV. Further, the measure would ensure that all people in Hawai‘i can live more self-determined lives by guaranteeing access to these important services, regardless of gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Accordingly, the Commission requests that the Committee pass SB2539.

Sincerely,  
Khara Jabola-Carolus

Testimony of  
John M. Kirimitsu  
Legal and Government Relations Consultant

Before:  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

February 4, 2020  
9:30 am  
Conference Room 229

### **SB 2539 Relating to Health Care**

Chair, Vice Chair, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this measure mandating coverage for a comprehensive category of reproductive health services, drugs, devices, products, and procedures.

#### **Kaiser Permanente Hawaii would like to request an amendment.**

Kaiser appreciates the intent of this bill to solidify the essential health benefits under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (“ACA”), however this bill’s inclusion of abortion, at no cost share, is not consistent with the ACA. The ACA Sect 1303 explicitly prohibits abortion from coverage as an “essential benefit” and confirms existing Federal and State prohibitions on the use of public funds for abortion services.

It is also important to recognize that currently states (California, Maryland, Vermont, Maine, Oregon, New York, and Washington, DC) are suing the Trump administration over policy that would make it harder for insurers to offer coverage for abortion. The change is expected to affect millions of Americans currently receiving coverage under the Affordable Care Act exchange and whose plans cover abortions. This new federal rule requires insurance providers on the Affordable Care Act marketplace to give two separate bills to consumers whose plans cover abortions: one for their regular premium and at least \$1 for a separate bill for a special abortion coverage premium. The federal health department (HHS) has defended this rule as a way of ensuring that the Affordable Care Act does not illegally fund abortion in accordance with the Hyde Amendment, a 1976 law that excludes abortion from government insurance plans.

Therefore, since including abortion is not consistent with federal law, i.e., the ACA does not recognize abortion as a essential health benefit, coupled with the current national controversy prohibiting health insurers from covering abortions, i.e., new separate billing rule, *Kaiser requests an amendment to exclude abortion services from this bill on Page 4, line 17.*

Thank you for your consideration.



February 2, 2020

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Re: SB 2539 – Relating to Health Care

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Committee Members:

The Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to testify on SB 2539 which requires health insurers, mutual benefit societies, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for a comprehensive category of reproductive health services, drugs, devices, products, and procedures. Prohibits discrimination in the provision of reproductive health care services and is effective 3/15/2021.

HMSA appreciates the intent of this measure, to preserve certain aspects of the Affordable Care Act for the residents of Hawaii, despite the uncertainties surrounding the current Presidential administration's efforts to "repeal and replace" the Affordable Care Act. However, this measure appears to add coverage beyond the Affordable Care Act, and will result in increased costs to the healthcare system. The requirement of "no-copay's" on all services in this bill goes against cost sharing that is routinely applied to other medical conditions.

We ask that should this bill move forward it should be subject to an impact assessment report by the Auditor pursuant to Sections 23-51 and 23-52 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Thank you for allowing us to provide these comments on SB 2539.

Sincerely,

Pono Chong  
Vice President, Government Relations



SENATE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND HEALTH

Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Chair

Sen. Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Date: February 4, 2020

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 229

From: Hawaii Medical Association

Michael Champion, MD, President

Christopher Flanders, DO, Executive Director

**Re: SB2327 Relating to Health Care**

**Position: SUPPORT**

The Hawaii Medical Association supports the intention of this bill in emphasizing the importance of access to reproductive health care and implementing forward thinking reproductive health care policy.

Thank you for allowing the Hawaii Medical Association to testify on this issue.

**HMA OFFICERS**

President – Michael Champion, MD    President-Elect – Angela Pratt, MD    Secretary – Thomas Kosasa, MD  
Immediate Past President – Jerry Van Meter, MD    Treasurer – Elizabeth A. Ignacio, MD  
Executive Director – Christopher Flanders, DO



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Tuesday, February 4, 2020; 9:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2676, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.**

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Changi, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA offers **COMMENTS** on Senate Bill No. 2676, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii Federally-Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

SECTION 11 would establish a new section to the Department of Human Services' (DHS) statutes (Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS)) that would prohibit the exclusion from participation in, denial of benefits of, or otherwise subject an individual on the basis of a disability the services, drugs, devices, products, or procedures covered by the Insurance Code for reproductive health care. Persons violating this statute would be considered in violation of Chapter 489, HRS, (Unfair Practices Act), as well as possibly be subjected to a cause of action under State or federal law.

As a recipient of federal funding, FQHCs are prohibited from providing abortion services to patients. FQHCs, are also contracted with DHS for reimbursement under the Hawaii Medicaid Program and as such must follow the statutes, rules, and policies of DHS.

Presently, the following are not clear to us:

- (1) If a physician at an FQHC refuses to perform an abortion at an FQHC facility in accordance with federal mandate, would the physician be in violation of SECTION 11?
- (2) If a physician at an FQHC refers a patient to another health care professional to perform an abortion, would that be considered a denial of service in violation of SECTION 11?

- (3) If yes is answered for either question (1) or (2), would the Federal Tort Claims Act, which provides immunity for physicians and personnel conducting services at an FQHC apply to a cause of action that originates in State court pursuant to SECTION 11?

While we agree with the underlying premise that mandatory reproduction health coverage will improve the health care outcomes of our citizenry, we also believe that possible conflicts in federal and State policy can have catastrophic consequences for health care professionals who must follow the mandates from both.

We note that this bill is substantially similar to a measure heard last year -- Senate Bill No. 1043. We concur with the Senate Committee on Judiciary's finding in Senate Standing Committee Report No. 798, I to wit:

*". . . Your Committee is concerned, however, that the reference to chapter 489, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for penalty and remedy purposes, as specified for each proposed revision of chapter 431, parts I and II; chapter 432; chapter 432D; and **chapter 346**, Hawaii Revised Statutes, should be more closely examined by stakeholders and future committees during the legislative process, and revised if appropriate. . ."* [Emphasis added.]

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiiipca.net.



Hawaii Association of Health Plans

February 2, 2020

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
The Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

**Senate Bill 2539 – Relating to Health Care**

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Association of Health Plans (HAHP) appreciates the opportunity to testify on SB 2539.

HAHP appreciates the intent of this bill, but we have serious concerns with the expansion of coverage for reproductive services beyond what has been established by the Affordable Care Act. As this would be a new mandated benefit, it is subject to an impact assessment report by the Auditor pursuant to Sections 23-51 and 23-52 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Thank you for allowing us to respectfully express our opposition to SB 2539.

Sincerely,

HAHP Public Policy Committee

cc: HAHP Board Members



## Hawaii Women's Coalition

To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2020, 9:30 a.m.  
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 229  
Re: Testimony of Hawaii Women's Coalition in strong support of SB 2539 relating to Health Care

Dear Chair Baker and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Women's Coalition writes in support of SB 2539. All people in Hawaii – regardless of income, gender identity, or type of insurance – should have access to the full range of preventive sexual and reproductive health services at no cost. While Hawaii has taken steps to codify in state law important protections currently required under the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA), many people still lack access to the critical care they need.

Now is the time to stand up and take action to ensure all people in Hawaii have access to the full range of preventive sexual and reproductive health services with no out-of-pocket costs. Thousands of people in Hawaii still lack access to the full range of reproductive health services. Without action, people in Hawaii will continue to be forced to delay care or forego care altogether, risking their health and economic security.

- While state law requires insurance plans to pay for the full range of FDA-approved contraceptives without cost-sharing, thousands of people must pay out-of-pocket for other basic, preventive health services.
- SB 2539 would fill these coverage gaps – it would strengthen and expand state law by requiring a wide range of sexual and reproductive health care services with no out-of-pocket costs.
- Hawaii needs SB 2539: forcing people to pay out-of-pocket for sexual and reproductive health care negatively impacts health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as people with low incomes, people of color, immigrants, young people, and survivors of domestic violence.
- Transgender and gender non-conforming people often face barriers when accessing services categorized as “women’s” health care, including gender-specific cancer screenings and the full range of reproductive health services. RHEA would help transgender and gender non-conforming people access these necessary and life-saving services.

Please support SB 2539 to ensure that all people in Hawaii have equal and affordable access to the care they need.

Sincerely,  
Hawaii Women's Coalition



*American College of  
Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
District VIII, Hawai'i (Guam & American Samoa) Section*

TO: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, & Health  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, February 4, 2020 9:30 AM

PLACE: Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 229

FROM: Hawai'i Section, ACOG  
Chrystie Fujimoto, MD, FACOG, Chair  
Reni Soon, MD, MPH, FACOG, Vice Chair  
Lauren Zirbel, Community and Government Relations  
Jennifer Chin, MD, Junior Fellow Legislative Chair

**Re: SB 2539 Relating to Health Care**

**Position: STRONG SUPPORT**

As a section of the nation's leading group of physicians dedicated to improving health care for women, the Hawai'i Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (HI ACOG) represents more than 200 obstetrician-gynecologists in our state. HI ACOG **strongly supports SB 2539** as it aims to protect access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care services in Hawai'i.

Hawai'i has a legacy of progressive action and legislation regarding reproductive rights, family planning, and access to women's health care services. As several states around the country have passed legislation that restricts women's access to comprehensive reproductive health care, it is even more important that progressive states such as Hawai'i to protect women's rights to the full spectrum of women's health care.

As women's health care physicians, we see on a daily basis how women in our state depend on access to a wide spectrum of reproductive health care services, including screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, cervical cancer screening and treatment, contraceptive counseling and medications, abortion and miscarriage management, genetic counseling and testing, substance use and mental health disorders, and comprehensive prenatal and postpartum care. Every day we see patients in our clinics and in the hospital who seek care because of one of these issues. Luckily most of the women we see are able to receive these services without having to delay care or worry about payment. Unfortunately, we have also seen the devastating consequences of delayed care due to lack of insurance coverage. We have cared for many patients who did not receive normal pap smears and thus presented with advanced stage cervical cancer. We have taken care of pregnant patients with serious substance use and mental health disorders who were unable to receive treatment before, during, or after their pregnancy. It is critical that the women of Hawai'i have timely, affordable access to the full spectrum of women's healthcare. Not only does this keep the women and families of Hawai'i healthy, but it also makes economic sense. Research has shown that for every dollar spent on reproductive health and

family planning, the government saves seven dollars.<sup>1</sup> This does not take into account the burden that unintended pregnancies and chronic medical conditions place on the families of Hawai'i, and thus the cost savings is likely even higher.

SB 2539 guarantees that all people of Hawai'i are able to access the full spectrum of healthcare without any discrimination, regardless of their race, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, or ability. Additionally, it ensures that women have full access to contraception including medication prescribed by physicians, physician assistants, advanced practice registered nurses, and pharmacists. This will decrease barriers to effective birth control and ensure that women are able to benefit from family planning services without delay. We are proud that our state has a strong tradition of prioritizing women's health. Let us continue to ensure that all women in Hawai'i have unrestricted, full spectrum access to the healthcare they need and deserve. We **strongly support SB 2539** and urge you to do the same.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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<sup>1</sup>Frost JJ et al (Guttmacher Institute). "Return on investment: a fuller assessment of the benefits and cost savings of the US publicly funded family planning program." The Milbank Quarterly, 2014.

**LATE**

*Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.*

To: Senator Baker, Chair  
Senator Chang, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health

Re: **SB 2539- Relating to reproductive health equity**  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 229  
9:30AM, 2/4/2020

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and committee members,

**On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!** I am writing in **SUPPORT** of SB 2539, relating to health insurance.

Recently, there have been efforts to dismantle the Affordable Care Act, with specific focus on removing protections for sexual and reproductive health care benefits and protections. These actions place the burden on states to recognize the new and existing gaps in health care coverage. Hawaii can safeguard reproductive health services for everyone regardless of what happens at the federal level by requiring insurers to cover the full spectrum of reproductive health services for all people regardless of income, gender identity, or insurance carrier.

This legislation will ensure that people in Hawaii have coverage for crucial preventive reproductive health services at no out of pocket cost to them. It also prohibits insurance companies from discriminating in insurance coverage (including the coverage of reproductive health services) based on gender or gender identity.

The people of Hawaii must have access to all reproductive health services so they are able to make the best decisions for their families. Unfortunately, for many individuals and families in Hawaii already struggling to afford their most basic needs, they simply cannot afford the added expense of these services. This means forgoing contraception, STI testing, screening for other diseases, wellness exams, and information about pregnancy options. As a result, diseases will go undetected and unintended pregnancies, STIs, and abortion rates will likely increase.

When people are denied these vital services it further threatens the economic security of all people in Hawaii because reproductive health services help people pursue an education, get and keep jobs, and support their families.

Hawaii has long been a leader in protecting access to sexual and reproductive health care. As reproductive health services are targeted by the federal government, it is more important than ever the state ensures equitable access to them.

**For these reasons, HCAN SPEAKS! respectfully requests the Committee to support this measure.**

Thank you.



# MCCORRISTON MILLER MUKAI MACKINNON LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

January 31, 2020

Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Honorable Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
The Senate  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: S.B. NO. 2539, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and Committee Members:

On behalf of the American Family Life Assurance Company of Columbus (AFLAC), we respectfully submit the following comments on Senate Bill No. 2539, relating to health care, which is to be heard by your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health on February 4, 2020.

New section 431:10A-A(h), at page 8, line 19, refers to HRS §431:10A-102.5. However, pursuant to Section 3 and Section 31, of Act 70, 2020 SLH, HRS §431:10A-102.5 effectively was renumbered as HRS §431:10A-607. Accordingly, we respectfully request that page 8, line 19, be amended as follows:

“~~431:10A-102.5~~ 431:10A-607.”

Thank you for your consideration of the foregoing.

Very truly yours,

MCCORRISTON MILLER MUKAI MACKINNON LLP



Peter J. Hamasaki

PJH:fk

**SB-2539**

Submitted on: 2/1/2020 4:41:03 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/4/2020 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Patricia Bilyk	Testifying for Breastfeeding Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

LATE

To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2020, 9:30 a.m.  
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 229  
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii in strong support of SB 2539 relating to Health Care

Dear Chair Baker and Members of the Committee,

Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii (“PPVNH”) writes in strong support of SB 2539, which seeks to ensure equal access to critical sexual and reproductive health care, including abortion, for all people in Hawaii.

All people in Hawaii – regardless of income, gender identity, or type of insurance – should have access to the full range of no-copay preventive reproductive health services. To safeguard its communities, Hawaii should pass SB 2539 to codify the Affordable Care Act’s coverage requirements into state law and expand protected services to include abortion and vasectomy. The Hawaii Legislature should also pass SB 2539 because it prohibits insurance companies from discriminating in insurance coverage, including coverage of reproductive health services, based on gender or gender identity.

**SB 2539 ensures insurance coverage of the full range of sexual and reproductive health care.** While state law requires insurance plans to pay the full range of FSA-approved contraceptives without cost-sharing, thousands of people must pay out-of-pocket for other basic, preventive health services. Without action, people in Hawaii will continue to delay care or forego care altogether due to these out-of-pocket costs, risking their health and economic security. We are already seeing the consequences of Hawaii’s coverage gaps: for example, Hawaii’s sexually transmitted infections (STIs) rates are the highest they have been in 30 years, with the STI rates more than doubling over the last ten years.

Congressional leaders and the current federal administration have made it clear that enacting additional restrictions on health care access and undermining consumer protections are their top priorities. They have targeted the rights of women and LGBTQ people with attacks on non-discrimination protections and access to abortion and birth control. Most recently, the federal administration finalized a rule designed to make it much more difficult for private health insurance plans to cover abortion care. Without SB 2539, insurers will most certainly consider discontinuing this important coverage.

Given these federal attacks on basic rights and health care, it is more important than ever that our state legislature act to ensure that nobody loses access to the health care and protections they depend on. SB 2539 will do just that. This legislation would codify the Affordable Care Act (ACA) preventive service coverage requirements in state law, ensuring that people in Hawaii don’t lose their access to no-copay preventive services such as birth control, well-person exams, and life-saving cancer screenings. It would also strengthen and expand these coverage requirements by requiring coverage of the full range of sexual and reproductive health care services, including abortion and vasectomy. And it would make sure that all people in Hawaii can access these important services, regardless of gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

**SB 2539 is a cost-effective solution.** Protecting and expanding access to sexual and reproductive health is not only the right thing to do, it is also cost-effective for consumers and health plans alike. The services included in this legislation are basic components of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care and are all associated with significant potential cost savings. That’s because providing basic preventive care avoids the need for more *expensive treatment and management* down the road; for example, preventing unplanned pregnancies creates significant cost-savings. Therefore, even if some services are determined to be new mandated benefits, in the

Other states that have passed coverage requirements have found that continuing to require health plans to cover existing mandates in the ACA is simple and minimally burdensome. And other states have also determined that passing legislation that includes broader coverage requirements than those included in the ACA does not necessarily create new mandates, because in some cases these coverage requirements simply clarify and codify the state's existing commitment to covering comprehensive, non-discriminatory sexual and reproductive health care. ACA requirements also continue to expand and evolve, making the impact of SB 2539 on Hawaii minimal – for example, all plans that have an effective date of June 11, 2020 or later are now required to cover PrEP medication without cost sharing. In implementing SB 2539, Hawaii can look to the example of other states and learn from their experiences and successes.

Additionally, it is crucial to note that SB 2539 is focused on insurance coverage, not the provision of care. In Hawaii, refusals of care continue to put patients' health and lives in danger because they enable a patient's care to be based on a hospital's religious beliefs rather than on what is best for the patient's health and circumstances. While Planned Parenthood opposes these refusals of care and religious exemptions, they are already in place in state and federal law. Ultimately, though, Planned Parenthood would advocate that a patient should receive equal access to health care services, as well as complete and accurate information about their health situation, no matter their reproductive decisions, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

**SB 2539 protects confidentiality.** The HIPAA Privacy Rule requires providers and insurers to protect patients' Personal Health Information (PHI). However, a provision allowing for some disclosures in connection with billing and payment can and does lead to the disclosure of patients' PHI, sometimes without their understanding or permission. Without strong protections to prevent such disclosure, teens and young adults insured on their parents' health plan may be deterred from seeking care, particularly sensitive services like reproductive health care and mental health services. Victims of domestic and sexual assault may also be prevented from safely accessing care such as contraception and STI testing without their abuser finding out. And if individuals with confidentiality concerns do seek care they may not be able to use their insurance, forcing them to pay out-of-pocket or turn to already-strained safety net programs.

A number of other states have also taken steps to improve health care access and protect confidentiality for individuals insured as dependents by requiring that health plans communicate directly with the individual receiving care. Planned Parenthood strongly supports putting in place similar confidentiality protections in Hawaii.

**Thousands of people in Hawaii still lack access to the full range of reproductive health services.** Access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care, without discrimination, is critical for the health and economic security of people in Hawaii. This bill will give more people in Hawaii the ability to decide if and when they have children based on what's best for them and their family's circumstances. Hawaii must continue its leadership in promoting all peoples' ability to access the health care they need and deserve, no matter what happens at the federal level. Please give Hawaii families access to the health care they need to thrive by supporting SB 2539.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,  
Laurie Field  
Hawaii State Director

**SB-2539**

Submitted on: 1/30/2020 11:16:50 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/4/2020 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support SB2539.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

**SB-2539**

Submitted on: 1/31/2020 7:36:24 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/4/2020 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Younghi Overly	Testifying for aauw of hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2539**

Submitted on: 2/1/2020 4:36:41 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/4/2020 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nancy J. Budd	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Honorable Chair Baker and Committee Members,

I urge you to support SB 2539.

It is critical that all members of our community are given affordable and equitable access to health services and there is no place for discrimination in the provision of these services.

Hawaii has been a national leader in providing fair access reproductive health services to all of our citizens and I urge you to continue to protect *all* of us, most importantly our most vulnerable community members. We know that restrictions on such health care services have serious detrimental effects on public health across the board.

Thank you for your consideration,

Nancy Budd

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair  
*Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health*

Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Hawaii State Capitol Conference Room 229

In support of S.B. 2539, Relating to health care.

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and esteemed members of the committee,

Hawai'i residents are facing a statewide **crisis**. After the Federal Administration unleashed devastating laws on the nationwide family planning funding program, many of our health centers lost almost half of their funding and patients lost access to essential health programs and resources. Our community includes many people from low-income families and people on the outer islands have little to **no access to reproductive health services**.

When I turned twenty-one, I learned that women's wellness checks are recommended for women starting from the age of eighteen. I was three years late for my first pap smear! What allowed me to afford this service was my mother's insurance, which still allows me to be labeled as a dependent under her. Despite this insurance, I still needed to provide co-pays for the services and as a struggling college student, it made me reluctant to go to receive this exam. Last year, a very close friend of mine since the sixth grade passed away from colon cancer. Certainly, even recommended preventive health screenings (which start at around the age of 40 for colon cancer) would not have helped due to her age. However, her passing was the reason that I got over my reluctance to go in and get my check-up. This special circumstance prompted me to go in to receive possibly life-saving screening services, but how many other young women have put off their exams due to the burden of expense and co-pays?

Sexual and reproductive health services are essential to women's health and the health of our local community. As you may well know, **rates of STIs such as gonorrhea and chlamydia** have **increased** exponentially in recent years, and the people of our community are falling victim to a lack of resources and services. The wealth gap between the super-rich and poverty-stricken has shown no signs of slowing or reducing and people from low-income families in Hawai'i find themselves with a lack of not only resources but also service availability.

As a constituent of this legislature and a lifelong citizen of Hawai'i, I am submitting this testimony **in support of S.B. 2539**, which would require insurance coverage with no out-of-pocket cost for a broad range of preventive reproductive and sexual health care services including contraception, vasectomy, abortion, STI and HIV screening, PrEP, breastfeeding support and supplies, domestic violence and breast and cervical cancer screenings, and more for all people in Hawaii. Such family planning services are critical to the health and well-being of the members of our community and insurance support has the potential to save the lives of many women across the islands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill,

Emma Ishihara.

**SB-2539**

Submitted on: 2/2/2020 11:23:11 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/4/2020 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Midwives Alliance of Hawaii	Testifying for Midwives Alliance of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-2539**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 1:27:18 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/4/2020 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael Golojuch Jr	Testifying for LGBT Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	Yes

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-2539**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 4:47:44 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/4/2020 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mandy Fernandes	Testifying for ACLU of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:



**LATE**

February 3, 2020

To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

Date: Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2020, 9:30 a.m.

Re: Testimony in strong support of SB 2539 relating to Healthcare

Dear Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii writes in strong support of SB 2539, which seeks to ensure equal access to critical sexual and reproductive health care, including abortion, for all people in Hawaii.

All people in Hawaii – regardless of income, gender identity, or type of insurance – should have access to the full range of no-copay preventive reproductive health services. To safeguard its communities, Hawaii should pass SB 2539 to codify the Affordable Care Act’s coverage requirements into state law and expand protected services to include abortion and vasectomy. The Hawaii Legislature should also pass SB 2539 because it prohibits insurance companies from discriminating in insurance coverage, including coverage of reproductive health services, based on gender or gender identity.

**SB 2539 ensures insurance coverage of the full range of sexual and reproductive health care.** While state law requires insurance plans to pay the full range of FSA-approved contraceptives without cost-sharing, thousands of people must pay out-of-pocket for other basic, preventive health services. Without action, people in Hawaii will continue to delay care or forego care altogether due to these out-of-pocket costs, risking their health and economic security. We are already seeing the consequences of Hawaii’s coverage gaps: for example, Hawaii’s sexually transmitted infections (STIs) rates are the highest they have been in 30 years, with the STI rates more than doubling over the last ten years.

**SB 2539 is a cost-effective solution.** Protecting and expanding access to sexual and reproductive health is not only the right thing to do, it is also cost-effective for consumers and health plans alike. The services included in this legislation are basic components of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care and are all associated with significant potential cost savings. That’s because providing basic preventive care avoids the need for more expensive treatment and management down the road; for example, preventing unplanned pregnancies creates significant cost-savings. Therefore, even if some services are determined to be new mandated benefits, in the long term, covering these services would likely be either cost-neutral or even create cost savings for health plans. Because of this cost-effectiveness, requiring coverage of these services would likely have a minimal impact on premiums, which in turn means that there would be minimal additional cost to the state to offset any potential premium increases.

**SB 2539 is similar to coverage requirements in other states.** Many other states have already implemented requirements found in SB 2539. For example:



In 2018 the Washington Legislature passed Substitute Senate Bill 6219, also known as the Reproductive Parity Act.<sup>1</sup> This legislation required that state-regulated health plans that cover maternity care provide substantially equivalent coverage for abortion care. It also expanded contraceptive coverage requirements beyond those in the ACA, including gender-neutral coverage of sterilization services for all enrollees and coverage of over-the-counter contraception. None of the requirements in this legislation was determined to be a new mandate that would trigger section 1311(d)(3) of the ACA.

In 2017 the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 3391, also known as the Reproductive Health Equity Act.<sup>2</sup> This bill required comprehensive, non-discriminatory coverage of sexual and reproductive health care services. This included coverage of abortion and a wide range of other sexual and reproductive health care services at no out-of-pocket cost to the patient.

In 2019, the Illinois Legislature passed the Illinois Reproductive Health Act, which required public and private insurance plans that provide pregnancy benefits to also cover abortions services – any deductible, coinsurance, waiting period, or other cost-sharing limit that applies to abortion cannot be higher than what the policy requires for other pregnancy care.<sup>3</sup>

Several states have also put in place laws that codify existing requirements from the ACA to ensure that those important protections stay in place at the state level, no matter what happens at the federal level. For example, in 2017, Washington State enacted legislation requiring state-regulated health plans to cover all preventive services required to be covered under federal law as of December 31, 2016, without cost sharing.<sup>4</sup> The requirements of this legislation are broader than Hawaii’s SB 2539, but the reproductive preventive health services are nearly identical to the coverage required in §431:10A-A(a)(1) of SB 2539. In the fiscal note for Washington’s legislation, the Washington Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) noted that “[t]his bill does not have a direct fiscal impact on the OIC because the bill maintains coverage of preventive services with zero cost-sharing as they currently exist in Federal law and are currently being enforced by the OIC.”<sup>5</sup> As OIC rightly stated, these are not new requirements: SB 2539 and similar legislation in other states simply require health plans to continue covering the basic health care that the ACA already requires them to cover. For example, states must already comply with coverage for any additional preventive women’s services under 42 U.S. Code section 300gg-13 of the ACA. These federal coverage requirements are already in place across the country and have already been well-defined.

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<sup>1</sup> Washington State Legislature, *Senate Bill 6219*, 2018. Accessed at <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billssummary?BillNumber=6219&Initiative=false&Year=2017>

<sup>2</sup> Oregon State Legislature, *Senate Bill 3391*, 2017. Accessed at <https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2017R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB3391>

<sup>3</sup> Illinois State Legislature, *House bill 2495*, 2019. Accessed at <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=2495&GAID=15&GA=101&DocTypeID=HB&LegID=118530&SessionID=108>

<sup>4</sup> Washington State Legislature, *Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1523*, 2018. Accessed at <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billssummary?BillNumber=1523&Year=2017&Initiative=false>

<sup>5</sup> Washington State Office of Financial Management, *Multi-Agency Fiscal Note Summary for ESHB 1523*, 2018. Accessed at <https://fortress.wa.gov/ofm/fnspublic/FNSPublicSearch/Search/1523/65>



Other states that have passed coverage requirements have found that continuing to require health plans to cover existing mandates in the ACA is simple and minimally burdensome. And other states have also determined that passing legislation that includes broader coverage requirements than those included in the ACA does not necessarily create new mandates, because in some cases these coverage requirements simply clarify and codify the state's existing commitment to covering comprehensive, non-discriminatory sexual and reproductive health care. ACA requirements also continue to expand and evolve, making the impact of SB 2539 on Hawaii minimal – for example, all plans that have an effective date of June 11, 2020 or later are now required to cover PrEP medication without cost sharing. In implementing SB 2539, Hawaii can look to the example of other states and learn from their experiences and successes.

Additionally, it is crucial to note that SB 2539 is focused on insurance coverage, not the provision of care. In Hawaii, refusals of care continue to put patients' health and lives in danger because they enable a patient's care to be based on a hospital's religious beliefs rather than on what is best for the patient's health and circumstances.

**SB 2539 protects confidentiality.** The HIPAA Privacy Rule requires providers and insurers to protect patients' Personal Health Information (PHI). However, a provision allowing for some disclosures in connection with billing and payment can and does lead to the disclosure of patients' PHI, sometimes without their understanding or permission. Without strong protections to prevent such disclosure, teens and young adults insured on their parents' health plan may be deterred from seeking care, particularly sensitive services like reproductive health care and mental health services. Victims of domestic and sexual assault may also be prevented from safely accessing care such as contraception and STI testing without their abuser finding out.

**Thousands of people in Hawaii still lack access to the full range of reproductive health services.** Access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care, without discrimination, is critical for the health and economic security of people in Hawaii. **This bill will give more people in Hawaii the ability to decide if and when they have children based on what's best for them and their family's circumstances. Hawaii must continue its leadership in promoting all peoples' ability to access the health care they need and deserve, no matter what happens at the federal level.** Please give Hawaii families access to the health care they need to thrive by supporting SB 2539.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Sunny Chen  
Executive Director

**SB-2539**

Submitted on: 2/2/2020 11:38:06 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/4/2020 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lea Minton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**From:** [JUDITHANNARMSTRONG@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:JUDITHANNARMSTRONG@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Judith Armstrong](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Sunday, February 2, 2020 7:43:15 PM

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Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Judith Armstrong  
Honolulu, HI 96815

**From:** [grammawl@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:grammawl@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Lesley Patton](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Sunday, February 2, 2020 7:12:00 PM

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Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Lesley Patton  
Kapaa, HI 96755

**From:** [susana.sofierose@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:susana.sofierose@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [susan boucher](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Sunday, February 2, 2020 4:31:01 PM

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Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
susan boucher  
Volcano, HI 96785

**From:** [bcohen@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:bcohen@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Bruce Cohen](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Sunday, February 2, 2020 2:57:17 PM

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Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Bruce Cohen  
Pahoa, HI 96778

**From:** [JFUJIOKA@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:JFUJIOKA@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [JULIA FUJIOKA](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Sunday, February 2, 2020 12:11:30 PM

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Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
JULIA FUJIOKA  
Aiea, HI 96701

**From:** [ursula.eisenpress@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:ursula.eisenpress@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Ursula Eisenpress](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Sunday, February 2, 2020 11:34:52 AM

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Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Ursula Eisenpress  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

TO: Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, February 4, 2020 9:30 AM

PLACE: Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 229

FROM: Jennifer Chin, MD, Junior Fellow Legislative Chair

**Re: SB 2539 Relating to Health Care**

**Position: STRONG SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Baker and Vice Chair Chang,

As a practicing obstetrician/gynecologist, I know the importance of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care and **strongly support SB 2539** as it aims to protect access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care services in Hawai'i.

Hawai'i has a legacy of progressive action and legislation regarding reproductive rights, family planning, and access to women's health care services. As several states around the country have passed legislation that restricts comprehensive women's health care, it is even more important that leaders of women's health, such as Hawai'i, protect the right to full spectrum women's health care for the benefit of the women and families of Hawai'i.

As women's health care providers, we see on a daily basis how women in our state depend on access to a wide spectrum of reproductive health care services, including screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, cervical cancer screening and treatment, contraceptive counseling and medications, abortion and miscarriage management, genetic counseling and testing, substance use and mental health disorders, and comprehensive prenatal and postpartum care. Every day we see patients in clinic and in the hospital who seek care because of one of these issues. Luckily most of the women we see are able to receive these services without having to delay care or worry about payment. Unfortunately, we have also seen the devastating consequences of delayed care due to lack of insurance coverage. We have cared for many patients who did not receive normal pap smears and thus presented with advanced stage cervical cancer. We have taken care of pregnant patients with serious substance use and mental health disorders who were unable to receive treatment before, during, or after their pregnancy. It is critical that the women of Hawai'i have timely, affordable access to the full spectrum of women's healthcare. Not only does this keep the women and families of Hawai'i healthy, but it also makes economic sense. Research has shown that for every dollar spent on reproductive health and family planning, the government saves seven dollars. This does not taken into account the burden unintended pregnancies and chronic medical conditions place on the families of Hawai'i, and thus the cost savings is likely even higher.

HB 2676 guarantees that all people of Hawai'i are able to access the full spectrum of healthcare without any discrimination, regardless of their race, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, or ability. Additionally, it ensures that women have full access to contraception including medication prescribed by physicians, physician assistants, advanced practice registered nurses, and pharmacists. This will decrease barriers to effective birth control and ensure that women are able to benefit from family planning services without delay. Let us continue to ensure that all women in Hawai'i have unrestricted, full spectrum access to the healthcare they need and deserve. In conclusion, I **strongly support SB 2539** and urge you to do the same. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Chin  
Obstetrics and Gynecology Chief Resident  
ACOG Hawaii Section Junior Fellow Legislative Chair

**From:** [justine.kwan@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:justine.kwan@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Justine Kwan](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Saturday, February 1, 2020 11:10:03 AM

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Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Justine Kwan  
Honolulu, HI 96815

**From:** [debski50@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:debski50@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Deborah Lang](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Saturday, February 1, 2020 11:13:38 AM

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Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Deborah Lang  
Pearl City, HI 96782

**From:** [nix@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:nix@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [John Nix](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Saturday, February 1, 2020 11:14:16 AM

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Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
John Nix  
Kihei, HI 96753

**From:** [info@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:info@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Debra Nix](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Saturday, February 1, 2020 11:14:56 AM

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Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Debra Nix  
Kihei, HI 96753

**From:** [allans@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:allans@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Janet Allan](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Saturday, February 1, 2020 11:15:44 AM

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Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Janet Allan  
Makawao, HI 96768

**From:** [MissingBenRose@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:MissingBenRose@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Cindy Lance](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Saturday, February 1, 2020 11:21:54 AM

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Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Cindy Lance  
Honolulu, HI 96822

**From:** [wolfdenz@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:wolfdenz@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Jeannine Moore](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Saturday, February 1, 2020 11:28:25 AM

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Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Jeannine Moore  
Captain Cook, HI 96704

**From:** [rhiora@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:rhiora@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Marilyn Markley](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Saturday, February 1, 2020 11:52:13 AM

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Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Marilyn Markley  
Pahoa, HI 96778

**From:** [terrysueakana@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:terrysueakana@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [TERRY AKANA](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Saturday, February 1, 2020 11:54:33 AM

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Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
TERRY AKANA  
Kapolei, HI 96707

**From:** [redahi@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:redahi@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [B.A.McClintock](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Saturday, February 1, 2020 12:00:55 PM

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Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
B.A. McClintock  
Honolulu, HI 96814

**From:** [adamsp@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:adamsp@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Patricia Adams](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Saturday, February 1, 2020 1:20:12 PM

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Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Patricia Adams  
Honolulu, HI 96817

**From:** [JSUSIE23@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:JSUSIE23@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [SUSAN CASWELL](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Saturday, February 1, 2020 2:19:26 PM

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Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
SUSAN CASWELL  
Paauilo, HI 96776

**From:** [andy.keith1@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:andy.keith1@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Andrew Keith](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Saturday, February 1, 2020 2:37:58 PM

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Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Andrew Keith  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

**From:** [m\\_stauber@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:m_stauber@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Michael Stauber](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Saturday, February 1, 2020 2:47:52 PM

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Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Michael Stauber  
Koloa, HI 96756

**From:** [louisesimrell@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:louisesimrell@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Louise Simrell](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Saturday, February 1, 2020 3:20:54 PM

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Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Louise Simrell  
Honokaa, HI 96727

**From:** [ofhi@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:ofhi@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Jeffrey Goodman](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Saturday, February 1, 2020 3:53:05 PM

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Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

These are dollars worth spending. It solves social problems. And promotes responsible reproduction and makes it possible.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Jeffrey Goodman  
Waianae, HI 96792

**From:** [lksaloha@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:lksaloha@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [laurie saarinen](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Saturday, February 1, 2020 4:25:42 PM

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Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
laurie saarinen  
Hilo, HI 96720

**From:** [mwood17@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:mwood17@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Melinda Wood](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Saturday, February 1, 2020 4:46:10 PM

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Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

Hawaii has always been ahead of the rest of the country when it comes to ensuring that sexual and reproductive health are regarded as integral parts of the overall health and wellbeing of our residents. We already know that barriers to receiving such care affect low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people. Please don't let that happen to anyone in our state.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Melinda Wood  
Honolulu, HI 96822

**From:** [janetsb@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:janetsb@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Janet Breckenridge](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Saturday, February 1, 2020 5:24:31 PM

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Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Janet Breckenridge  
Kapolei, HI 96707

**From:** [moana.leong@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:moana.leong@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Moana Leong](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Saturday, February 1, 2020 6:18:39 PM

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Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Moana Leong  
Mililani, HI 96789

**From:** [tizard8@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:tizard8@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Thomas Tizard](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Saturday, February 1, 2020 9:10:14 PM

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Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Thomas Tizard  
Kailua, HI 96734

**From:** [zampathas.james@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:zampathas.james@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [James Zampathas](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Saturday, February 1, 2020 9:17:18 PM

---

Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
James Zampathas  
Kamuela, HI 96743

**From:** [amblades@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:amblades@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [April Blades](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Sunday, February 2, 2020 6:11:33 AM

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Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

We are not all the same but we are all equal. Everyone deserves access to affordable healthcare. I support equity in healthcare and urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
April Blades  
Honolulu, HI 96814

**From:** [rosemaryewa@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:rosemaryewa@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Rose Craven](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Sunday, February 2, 2020 7:52:10 AM

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Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Rose Craven  
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

**From:** [Gina Hungerford](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support SB 2539 - Insurance Coverage for Reproductive Health  
**Date:** Sunday, February 2, 2020 9:52:00 AM

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**From:** ginahungerford@gmail.com <Gina Hungerford>

**Message:**

Simply, yes. We need to take care of our humanity, starting with how we perpetuate life and how we care for the vessel and transmission of our DNA. All people, regardless of gender-assignment need to be able to access quality healthcare that meets their needs. Open the door to good health.

Aloha Chir Baker, Vice Chair Chang and members of the committee,

Please support SB 2539

Gina Hungerford

Waialua

Hawaii

**From:** [Pchinn05@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:Pchinn05@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Pauline Chinn](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Sunday, February 2, 2020 11:08:20 AM

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Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

Both as a high school science teacher and from experiences in my own family, I know how unplanned pregnancies affect the lives of young women, the unplanned child, and their families. They often cut short the mother's future education and create almost unbearable personal, economic and social stresses in their families.

The children of unplanned pregnancies are often those who are least successful as students.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

I have personally seen how unplanned pregnancies continue the cycle of poverty and under-education, especially of women and girls in our most underserved populations. The short and long term benefits to society at large far outweigh the costs of reproductive and sexual health care. It's an issue that decides how I vote.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Pauline Chinn  
Honolulu, HI 96822

**From:** [harpstrij001@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:harpstrij001@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Patricia Harpstrite](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Sunday, February 2, 2020 11:30:41 AM

---

Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Patricia Harpstrite  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

**From:** [dsegalmatsu@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:dsegalmatsu@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Doris Matsunaga](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Saturday, February 1, 2020 11:04:46 AM

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Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Doris Matsunaga  
Aiea, HI 96701

**From:** [chucktaylor111@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:chucktaylor111@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Chuck Taylor](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Saturday, February 1, 2020 11:01:40 AM

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Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Chuck Taylor  
Wailea, HI 96753

**From:** [charlie\\_in\\_paradise@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:charlie_in_paradise@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [CHARLES LUCE](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Saturday, February 1, 2020 11:00:35 AM

---

Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
CHARLES LUCE  
Pahoa, HI 96778

**LATE**

**SB-2539**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 12:30:17 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/4/2020 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marci Lopes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**From:** [alani.bagcal@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:alani.bagcal@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Alani Bagcal](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Monday, February 3, 2020 10:41:55 AM

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Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

Not everyone has the privilege to access reproductive health care, but everyone is in need of reproductive health care.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Alani Bagcal  
Honolulu, HI 96816

**LATE**

**From:** [margo.cohen@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:margo.cohen@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Margo Cohen](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Monday, February 3, 2020 9:53:42 AM

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Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Margo Cohen  
Wailuku, HI 96793

**LATE**

**SB-2539**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 1:59:04 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/4/2020 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dara Carlin, M.A.	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-2539**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 3:12:39 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/4/2020 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
JoAnn Farnsworth	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-2539**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 3:51:11 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/4/2020 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Doris Matsunaga	Testifying for Kokua Kalihi Valley	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2539**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 4:39:26 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/4/2020 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo and I am a lifelong resident of Hawai'i on O'ahu. I fully support this bill. I believe that all people in Hawaii – regardless of income, gender identity, or type of insurance – should have access to the full range of preventive sexual and reproductive health services at no cost.

Please support this bill.

me ke aloha 'Ä• ina,

Nanea Lo

**LATE**

**SB-2539**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 5:36:56 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/4/2020 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kristen Alice Apruzzese	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, and thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of SB2539**.

When we allow cherry picking of medical coverage, we allow attitudes informed by pseudoscience, sexism, and stigmas against mental health and substance abuse to pervade our healthcare. Please protect our right to science-informed, non-discriminatory healthcare by passing this bill.

Mahalo,

Kristen Alice Apruzzese

**LATE**

**From:** [terrytravis@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:terrytravis@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Terry Travis](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Monday, February 3, 2020 5:16:38 PM

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Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Terry Travis  
Ewa Beach, HI 96706

**From:** [ljk.kimura@everyactioncustom.com](mailto:ljk.kimura@everyactioncustom.com) on behalf of [Lisa Kimura](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** I support equity in health care  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 4, 2020 3:06:49 AM

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Dear Hawaii Senate Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

Everybody deserves affordable and equitable access to reproductive and sexual health care, regardless of gender, gender identity, citizenship status, or income. SB 2539 could make this a reality.

The current political climate is a crisis for the most vulnerable among us, with the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women under attack.

This bill comes at a critical juncture.

As a former professor, lecturing on sexual and reproductive health in the Public Health department at Hawaii Pacific University, and former executive director of Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies, I can attest that restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

The people of Hawaii need strong leaders to stand up for health, and to stand up for what's right.

Hawaii should continue to be a national leader and protect reproductive health equity for all people. I urge you to support SB 2539 and pass it out of committee.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Kimura  
Honolulu, HI 96826

**SB-2539**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 12:06:40 PM

Testimony for CPH on 2/4/2020 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sara Harris	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2539**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 9:09:35 AM

Testimony for CPH on 2/4/2020 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Taylor	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a 25 year old woman who has had the privilege of having health coverage that insures my reproductive health care, I have been able to succeed because of it. I am able to obtain affordable birth control and have regular check-ups that keep me healthy. Not everyone is as fortunate as I am, but everyone certainly deserves to have reproductive and sexual health care. I urge you to pass this bill.

This bill comes at a critical juncture, when the rights of immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ people, and women are all under attack. Restrictions on reproductive health care have been shown to cause harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving care, such as low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, young women, survivors of domestic violence, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people.