

Possibility: Bodily Autonomy

UUJusticePA Postcards for Reproductive Justice February 4, 2024

We are focusing on three bills currently in the PA House.

HB 181 The Family Care Act will establish the Family and Medical Leave Program and the Family and Medical Leave Fund. Multiple amendments have been added to this bill as it has been bounced around various committees during this session after being killed during the last session. It was scheduled for a third and final consideration in the House in December, but did not run. Rep. Matthew Bradford, the majority leader in the House, decided at the last minute to hold the vote until March or May 2024.

Example postcard text:

I urge you to vote in favor of HB 181, the Family Care Act. All employees, no matter the size of their employer, should be able to take care of family members without loss of income.

Send to: your Representative and to Rep. Bradford urging him to bring the bill to the House floor for voting.

Hon. Matthew D. Bradford
110 Main Capitol Building
P.O. Box 202070
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2070

HB 1608 Medicaid Coverage for Doulas This bill is one of a series to address maternal mortality. The U.S. ranks amongst the highest in maternal mortality – a statistic that rings especially true for women of color. Research shows that access to doula services (before, during and after pregnancy) can bridge the unacceptable inequity, providing tailored care for women who so desperately need a support system. HB 1608 will provide Medicaid coverage for certified doulas for childbirth education and support services during pregnancy, labor and delivery, and up to one year postpartum. The bill was referred to the House Health Committee August 7, 2023.

Example postcard text

I urge you to bring HB 1608, Medicaid coverage for doula services, to a vote in the Health Committee. Doula services providing support during pregnancy, labor and delivery, and a year postpartum will help to address the appalling and increasing rates of maternal morbidity and mortality in PA.

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Send to: the House Health Committee Chairs

Hon. Dan Frankel (Committee Chair)

326 Main Capitol Building

P.O. Box 202023

Harrisburg, PA 17120-2023

Hon. Kathy L. Rapp (Minority Chair)

312 Main Capitol Building

P.O. Box 202065

Harrisburg, PA 17120-2065

HB 1888 Personal Reproductive Liberty Amendment to the PA Constitution

Provides for the following: “Every individual has the fundamental right to exercise personal reproductive liberty and make and effectuate decisions regarding the individual's own reproduction, including the ability to choose or refuse to prevent, continue or end the individual's pregnancy, the right to choose or refuse contraceptives and the right to choose or refuse fertility care, all without discrimination on the basis of race, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion or relationship status. The Commonwealth may not deny, burden, infringe upon or abridge this right unless justified by a compelling State interest achieved by the least restrictive means.”

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This is a new bill that was referred to the Judiciary Committee on December 6, 2023 sponsored by Rep. Otten and cosponsored by Hanbridge, Shusterman, Schlossberg, Rabb, Sanchez, Pielli, Frankel, Hill-Evans, Fiedler, Guent, Briggs, Cerrato, Kinsey and Hohenstein. Write to your Rep if not a cosponsor.

Example postcard text

Please support HB 1888, the Personal Reproductive Liberty Amendment to the PA Constitution, **through your cosponsorship and work to move this amendment through the legislature for a vote.** Every Pennsylvanian deserves the right to make personal choices about their own reproduction without interference from the government.

Send to your Representative if they are not listed above.

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