

Hyde – 30 Years is Enough!

Fund abortion. Protect dignity and justice for all women.



When my husband started hitting me last year, I took my two kids and moved out. It's hard to make rent, but I knew I had to keep myself and the children safe. A few months ago I came home from work and he was at my apartment. He raped me, saying that his new girlfriend can't give him children. When I found out I was pregnant, I was so scared. My social worker told me that because I was raped, Medicaid is supposed to pay for an abortion. But when I called Medicaid, they said they wouldn't cover it no matter what. How will I find the money when I can barely make rent?

– Ana Maria, age 23

Women are denied their rights

Bans on abortion funding most severely affect poor women, women of color, and young women. The cost of a first-trimester abortion can be more than a poverty-level family lives on in a month.

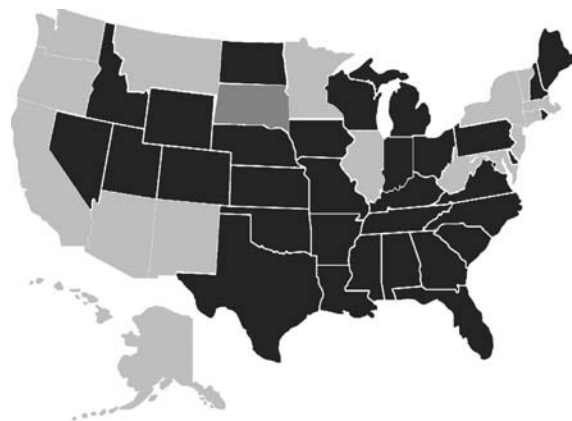
Women on public assistance often face a double-bind: no help paying for abortion in cases of unwanted pregnancies, and no financial support after childbirth because of welfare reform laws that punish them for having a child while on assistance (family caps). Because of restrictive federal laws, immigrant women are usually denied abortion coverage, even in states in which Medicaid pays for abortion.

Today, women forgo food, risk eviction, and pawn their possessions as they attempt to raise money for an abortion. Some are forced to continue the pregnancy, abandon their education and stay trapped in poverty.

Women face these difficult situations because the government denies abortion funding to women in need.

- In 1976, Congress passed the Hyde Amendment, which forbids federal funding for abortion. The only exceptions are in cases of rape, incest, and danger to the life of the woman. Most states have also banned state Medicaid funding for abortion.
- Before the Hyde Amendment, federal Medicaid covered over one-third of all abortions. Since 1977 it has paid for virtually none.
- Congress also denies abortion coverage to military personnel and their families, women receiving care from Indian Health Services, and people on disability insurance.

Medicaid Coverage of Abortion



- 32 states ban state Medicaid for abortion. They are legally required to provide coverage in the cases of life endangerment, rape, and incest, but usually fail to do so.
- 1 state provides coverage only in cases of life endangerment.
- 17 states provide state Medicaid coverage of abortion for poor women in most cases.

Hyde – 30 Years is Enough!

The National Network of Abortion Funds (NNAF) is a network of grassroots groups that help women and girls pay for abortions. We have joined with other groups to launch the *Hyde – 30 Years is Enough! Campaign*. We call for full public funding of abortion, culturally competent and non-coercive family planning services, and support for low-income women to care for their children with dignity. We stand for reproductive justice, a world in which all women have the power and resources necessary to make healthy decisions about their bodies and their families.

I am a mother of four and I do the best that I can for my kids. I work part-time and get some government benefits, but we can still barely pay the rent. Last month my 16-year old got pregnant. We both decided she wasn't ready to have a child. But my caseworker said Medicaid doesn't cover abortion in our state. So finally we found a "crisis pregnancy center" that offered free services. I told them that my daughter wanted to have an abortion. The two ladies said, "If you do that, you'll never be able to have children." My daughter was terrified and I was in shock. It was all lies! Now we still have to find the money and I know the later it gets, the more expensive the abortion will be.



– Gladys, age 34

What you can do

- **Help low-income women to pay for abortions.** Make a contribution to your local abortion fund, or sign up to volunteer. Find a fund in your area at www.hyde30years.nnaf.org. If there is no fund in your area, consider starting one!
- **Advocate for increased public funding.** Urge your U.S. Congress members and state legislators to provide full Medicaid coverage of abortion and family planning. Find your elected officials at www.vote-smart.org

Hyde – 30 Years is Enough! Campaign participating organizations include the following:

National Network of Abortion Funds, including more than 100 grassroots abortion funds across the country

- Abortion Access Project • Advocates for Youth • African American Women Evolving • Association of Reproductive Health Professionals • Backline
- Brooklyn Childcare Collective • California Black Women's Health Project • Catholics for a Free Choice • Center for American Progress • Center for Constitutional Rights • Center for Reproductive Rights • Center for Women Policy Studies • Chicago Foundation for Women, Our Voices Our Choices Reproductive Health Coalition
- ChoiceUSA • Civil Liberties and Public Policy Program • Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR) • DC Prisoners' Legal Services Project • Detroit Action Network for Reproductive Rights (DANFORR) • Dinah Project • Family Planning Advocates • Feminist Women's Health Center (Atlanta) • Gay & Lesbian Labor Activists' Network (GALLAN) • Ibis Reproductive Health • Institute for Reproductive Health Access • Ipas • Lambda Letters Project
- Law Students for Reproductive Justice • Maine Women's Lobby • MergerWatch • NARAL Pro-Choice America • National Abortion Federation • National Advocates for Pregnant Women • National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum • National Coalition of Abortion Providers • National Council of Jewish Women
- National Health Law Program • National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health • National Organization for Women (NOW) • National Women's Health Network
- National Women's Law Center • Northwest Women's Law Center • Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health • Planned Parenthood Federation of America
- Power Inside • Pro-Choice Public Education Project • Reproductive Health Technologies Project
- SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Health Collective • Survivors, Inc • Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

Please see www.hyde30years.nnaf.org for a complete and up-to-date list of participating groups.



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For more information, please go to www.hyde30years.nnaf.org
or contact the National Network of Abortion Funds (NNAF) at 617.524.6040 or info@nnaf.org