

# The Reproductive Freedom Act (S3030/A4848)

**The Reproductive Freedom Act protects access to time-sensitive care and prioritizes the health and well-being of everyone who needs reproductive health care, such as birth control and pregnancy-related care, including abortion.** When everyone can make the decisions that are best for their lives, families thrive and we build communities where each of us can participate with dignity and equality. We need a state that leads with compassion and puts our families' health, safety, and real-life needs first. During the COVID-19 crisis, we have seen how essential it is to make sure all people can get the health care they need, including reproductive health care. **As politicians in other states race to push reproductive health care out of reach, it is essential for New Jersey to step up and ensure that everyone who needs care is able to access it with dignity and respect.**

What does the Reproductive Freedom Act do?	Why is this important?
<p>Declares that all New Jerseyans – including cisgender women, transgender men, and non-binary people – have a fundamental right to access reproductive health care, such as birth control and pregnancy-related care including abortion, and have the right to make their own health care decisions without interference by politicians.</p>	<p>The decision about whether and when to become a parent is one of the most important life decisions we make. We need to trust all people who can become pregnant to make decisions about their own health and lives, such as decisions around birth control and pregnancy-related care, including abortion.</p>
<p>Updates and repeals medically unnecessary, harmful regulations that regulate abortion differently from any other medical procedure and restrict access to care. These restrictions include preventing qualified health care providers from providing abortion care and imposing medically unnecessary limits on the types of medical settings in which an abortion can be performed.</p>	<p>These regulations don't protect patients – in fact, they hurt patient health by restricting access to necessary medical care. It is time to get rid of these medically unnecessary barriers and instead secure a future that safeguards reproductive care, upholds basic rights and justice, and respects decision-making throughout pregnancy.</p>
<p>Ensures that birth control is covered through insurance without copays, and that prescriptions can also be written for a full year of birth control at a time.</p>	<p>The more cycles of birth control a patient receives at once, the less likely they are to discontinue using that method and to experience an unintended pregnancy as a result.</p>
<p>Ensures that New Jerseyans can access abortion through their private insurance with no out-of-pocket costs.</p>	<p>A person's ability to access abortion care should not depend on how much money they make. Once someone has decided to have an abortion, it should be safe, affordable, and accessible.</p>
<p>Expands a program for individuals who are not currently eligible for Medicaid coverage due to their immigration status to access safe, legal, and affordable birth control and pregnancy-related care, including abortion.</p>	<p>New Jersey is stronger when we can all make decisions about our families, our health, and our futures. When we ensure that everyone, regardless of immigration status, can access affordable and high quality reproductive health care, such as birth control and pregnancy-related care including abortion, the health and well-being of our community – and our state – improves.</p>
<p>Repeals old laws that create barriers to abortion access, including an unconstitutional law that required forced parental notification (which was struck down by the New Jersey Supreme Court two decades ago) and two criminal laws that are vaguely written and could be misused to prosecute and imprison someone who has ended their own pregnancy.</p>	<p>When someone has made a decision to end a pregnancy, medically unnecessary restrictions should not create barriers to timely medical care. These laws, which are not currently enforceable, only serve to shame and stigmatize individuals seeking abortion care.</p>

*continued on reverse*

## Conclusion

We believe that everyone in New Jersey should be able to receive the care they need and plan their families without barriers, fears, or interference from others. **The Reproductive Freedom Act will explicitly ensure New Jerseyans have the right to make their own personal health care decisions when it comes to reproductive health care**, including birth control, abortion, and pregnancy-related care, and it will expand access to reproductive health care by breaking down barriers people face when accessing care, such as harmful, medically unnecessary restrictions and high or unaffordable costs.

This legislation sends a clear message: New Jersey stands for freedom, compassion, and healthy communities. The Reproductive Freedom Act ensures that everyone in this state can make their own personal medical decisions with dignity. New Jersey has a proven track record of protecting reproductive health, and this bill continues to show that we won't stop. **Pass the Reproductive Freedom Act (S3030/A4848) to protect and expand access to reproductive health care in New Jersey.**

## Organizational Support

The Reproductive Freedom Act is supported by the Thrive NJ Coalition, a statewide coalition of organizations working collectively to promote sexual and reproductive health, rights, and justice through policy change and advocacy. The coalition includes representatives of the following organizations:



american society for  
emergency contraception



Youth  
Power  
Project

