



Advocacy Update

Sent: June 26, 2018

Help Protect Women's Health

This morning the Supreme Court of the United States ruled 5-4 in favor of the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates (NIFLA) v. Becerra, allowing medical professionals to omit full reproductive health care information to their patients. Women of Reform Judaism condemns this decision to further restrict the reproductive rights of women. We must continue to act to demand full access to women's health care.

On June 1st, the Department of Health and Human Services [proposed an amendment to Title X](#) to ensure compliance with, and enhance implementation of, the requirement that no funds under this federal grant program may be used in programs where abortion is a method of family planning. This regulation, commonly known as the "domestic gag rule," would undermine a woman's right to choose her own medical decisions and would allow healthcare professionals to withhold accurate and timely medical information from patients.

Title X is the United States' only program dedicated to providing affordable reproductive health care on the federal level, helping [4 million women](#) nationwide. Currently the law states that funding cannot go to abortion services, but organizations that perform abortions with their own money can still receive funding to provide other health care services. This proposed rule would eliminate all federal funding to any organization that provides or refers for abortion services.

Since our resolution in [1935 on Birth Control Literature](#), WRJ has continued to fight for a woman's right to choose, the sanctity of the doctor-patient relationship, and access to health care.

Consistent with our longstanding background of actions towards reproductive rights, WRJ urges you to demonstrate your strong opposition to this deeply destructive proposal.

TAKE ACTION

From now until July 31, 2018, the Department of Health and Human Services is accepting comments on this proposed rule from the public. There are already over 28,000 comments, with thousands in favor of this regulation. Please [submit a comment](#) to make your voice heard.

- When drafting your comment, please include your personal feelings and connection to this case. Why is reproductive health care important to you? Below is a sample comment that you may use as the basis for your comment, but we strongly encourage you to personalize it. If there are multiple identical comments, they are not counted individually for department consideration. Additionally, all comments will be made available to the public so do not use personal details such as your address or other contact information in your text.
- Once your comment is completed, submit it to the [Federal Register](#). You will then be prompted to fill out a required contact form. Once you complete the form, press "continue" to review your information, and then press "submit comment" at the bottom right corner of the page.
- Let us know that you submitted a comment by filling out [this form](#)! **We want you to be counted in WRJ's efforts to protect reproductive rights.**

Sample Comment:

Dear Secretary Azar,

As a worried citizen, Reform Jew, and woman I am writing you today to express my strongest opposition to the proposed rule RIN 0937-ZA00. Nearly 4 million women use federally funded health care services annually and if this proposed rule goes into effect they will not be able to get all of the medical attention and information they deserve.

Jewish tradition tells us that a doctor is obligated to heal, and a person who prevents a physician from doing so "is considered to have shed blood" (Shulchan Arukh Yore De'ah 336:1). I am writing to



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you today to stand up for my fellow women and demand full and accurate information from doctors and health care providers in addition to full access for women's health care.

This proposed rule would limit women's reproductive rights, undermine free speech, and restrict women's access to quality healthcare. I urge you to withdraw this proposed rule and allow women to receive all health care and information they need and deserve.