

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*News from Michigan Voices for Women's Health Coalition*

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### **Abortion is Healthcare: Advocates Applaud Proactive Reproductive Health Bills** *Package of legislation introduced to eliminate burdens to make legal abortions affordable and available*

LANSING – The Michigan Voices for Women's Health Coalition applauded the bicameral introduction of a legislative package which aims to increase access to affordable, legal abortions in Michigan and remove barriers to reproductive healthcare. The group includes Reclaim (Northland Family Planning), Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan, Michigan National Organization for Women, ACLU of Michigan, and the Interfaith Reproductive Justice Coalition of Michigan.

"These bills would provide a great benefit to our patients who currently have to jump through ridiculous hoops that have nothing to do with their health or safety," **said Lara Chelian, director of advocacy for Northland Family Planning.** "Abortion care is essential and as a provider it is important that our patients have all the of support and tools we need to make sound healthcare decisions and not the barriers that exists today."

The legislative package comes as access to abortion and a woman's ability to make important life decisions continue to be attacked by some in the political arena. The onslaught of attacks and resulting regressive polices have led to insurmountable barriers for a woman and pregnant people to make healthy decisions from themselves and their families.

"Most Americans agree with access to legal abortions," **said Amanda West, director of government relations for Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan.** "This package of bills will put policy in line with this fact and we applaud the elected officials who introduced the package to remove barriers that stand in the way of access to reproductive healthcare. It's time to return medical autonomy to those who are making decisions about their body and families."

The bill package, which organizations in the coalition are calling the *Abortion is Healthcare* package, would prevent health facilities from refusing to provide reproductive health services if non-treatment would result in health risks, remove unnecessary waiting periods for abortions, and prevent healthcare professionals from providing inaccurate medical advice and non-scientific medical services.

The following organizations support the measures outlined in the package:

- Reclaim (Northland Family Planning)
- Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan
- Michigan National Organization for Women

- ACLU of Michigan
- The Interfaith Reproductive Justice Coalition of Michigan

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