



SB1305 – Public Employee Health Insurance Discrimination

Fact Sheet

Background

SB1305, “public monies; insurance; abortion; prohibition,” prohibits public money from directly or indirectly paying costs, premiums, or charges associated with health insurance policies, contracts or plans that provide coverage, benefits, or services related to the performance of an abortion. SB1305 includes an exception only if the procedure saves the life of the woman or will “avert substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function.”

This bill will undermine the local governments’ autonomy and ability to determine the kind of insurance coverage to offer their employees. This is unnecessary state intervention in local government. Planned Parenthood Arizona believes that women, in consultation with their families and medical providers - not politicians - know what coverage they need in an insurance plan.

SB 1305 is discriminatory:

- Singling out abortion for exclusion from health-care plans that cover other reproductive health services is harmful to women's health and discriminates against women in public service.
- Women should not be denied access to reproductive health care—a basic part of women’s health care—by politicians imposing their personal ideology on private medical decisions.
- Many American workers receive health insurance through their employers. Such benefits are part of the employees’ compensation. Public employees are no different.

Government interfering decisions about women’s health:

- Prohibiting insurance coverage of reproductive health care puts the health of women and families at risk and unfairly forces women to spend more than men on health care as they will likely lose coverage they currently have.
- Women should not be denied access to reproductive health care—a basic part of women's health care—by politicians imposing their personal ideology on private medical decisions.
- If this bill becomes law, women who work for government entities that currently provide their employees with health plans that cover abortion will lose medical coverage of abortion, a legal medical procedure.
- Women, in consultation with their families and medical professionals, know what coverage they need in an insurance plan – not politicians.

- This bill unjustly discriminates against women who work for public entities; simply by being employed by a local government should not be a reason to have less coverage than other women. Public employees should not be limited in their choices simply by being public employees.
- SB1305 discriminates against women; the state of Arizona is seeking to statutorily ban a particular medical procedure in insurance plans for public employees. This creates an undue burden as it targets a procedure that only women need.
- In these difficult economic times, banning certain insurance benefits is unthinkable.
- Local communities like counties and municipalities should be able to determine for their communities what is best – state government should not be dictating what benefits are provided to local public employees. This is unnecessary state intervention in local government.