



NARAL
Pro-Choice
Washington



Seattle Anti-Hyde Resolution Organizer Action Kit

Dear Supporters, Partners, and Allies,

As you know, the Hyde Amendment, passed by Congress in 1976, bans public insurance coverage of abortion, making comprehensive coverage impossible for women enrolled in Medicaid, people in the military and their dependents, veterans, federal employees, Native American Women, women in federal prison, and women who serve in the Peace Corps. These restrictions primarily target low-income women, women of color, and immigrant women who already face significant barriers to accessing safe, legal and affordable health care options. For anyone who believes that your finances should not hinder your ability to access a safe abortion from a licensed provider, bans such as the Hyde Amendment are troubling.

However, as we near the 38th anniversary of the passage of the Hyde Amendment, Seattle City Council Members are showing support for a resolution that would call on federal lawmakers to end these discriminatory practices once and for all by repealing the Hyde Amendment and similar bans on abortion coverage. We are optimistic that, with your support, we can ensure comprehensive abortion coverage for all and give women the fairness and equity they deserve when making reproductive health care decisions.

This Hyde Resolution Organizer Kit will give you the resources you need to be a community leader in our efforts to repeal Hyde. Enclosed you will find:

- Talking Points
- Sample Letters to the Editor
- Sample Letters to Councilmember
- Sample Social Media Postings
 - Twitter
 - Facebook

We encourage you to insert your own personal stories into these templates and to include why #RepealHyde is important to you, or simply to use the preloaded Tweets, letters, and Facebook posts on your social networks.

Thank you for standing with us to help us #RepealHyde. Please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have.

Best,

Megan Burbank, NARAL Pro-Choice Washington
Sarah MacDonald, Legal Voice

Talking Points

- Reproductive health is a vital component of a woman's overall health, and reproductive freedom is vital to a woman's safety, well-being, and ability to participate equally in society
- The Hyde Amendment, first passed by Congress just a few short years after *Roe v. Wade* legalized abortion, bans Medicaid coverage of abortion. Washington is one of only 15 states that fills the gap in funding by providing Medicaid abortion coverage through state funds.
- Even still, countless Seattle women who receive federally sponsored health insurance through Medicare, the Veteran's Administration (VA), the Peace Corps, Indian Health Service (IHS) and other programs are left without coverage for a full range of options when facing an unintended pregnancy.
- This resolution calls upon the federal and state governments to repeal all federal bans on public coverage of abortion. We support improving access to public and private insurance coverage for comprehensive reproductive health care, including abortion.
- We call on our government to recognize that a woman who needs to end her pregnancy needs insurance coverage so she is able to see a licensed, quality health provider
- The availability and affordability of abortion is being eroded deliberately and strategically state-by-state by those working to undermine the protections provided by *Roe v. Wade*
- It is unfair to withhold insurance coverage or try to influence a woman's decision about whether to end a pregnancy just because of the type of insurance she has
- Bans on insurance coverage of abortion inflict disproportionate harm on low-income women, women of color, and immigrant women, who already face significant barriers to accessing timely, high-quality health care
- Over 4,000 women of reproductive age in Seattle are insured through the federal government and are therefore subject to federal restrictions on abortion coverage
- This resolution honors the commitment Seattle City Council made to women when it passed a resolution in May that included prioritizing access to reproductive health care with a broader vow to gender equity and support for working women and their families
- If the Council passes the resolution, Seattle will become the sixth jurisdiction in the nation to take a strong stand against unjust coverage bans like the Hyde Amendment

Sample Tweets and Facebook Posts

Hashtags

#RepealHyde, #WeDecideWA

Tweets:

The amount of #money a #woman has or does not have should not prohibit her from having an abortion. #WeDecideWA #RepealHyde

Abortion coverage bans have a larger impact on #womenofcolor, #immigrants and low-income #women. Fight racial and economic #inequality. #WeDecideWA

Federal policy withholds abortion coverage for women on #Medicaid, in the #military, in #prison and more. Let's #RepealHyde! #WeDecideWA

Your finances and insurance provider shouldn't hinder your access to a safe abortion from a licensed provider. #WeDecideWA #RepealHyde

A woman struggling to make ends meet needs to be able to make important, personal decisions based on what is best for her. #WeDecideWA

Low-income #women face significant economic barriers to getting an abortion. Respect a woman's right to choose. #WeDecideWA

Having an abortion is a constitutional right. Politicians shouldn't be able to deny a woman coverage just because she is poor. #WeDecideWA

The right to an abortion is a constitutional right, but women on govt-funded health care can't get coverage. #RepealHyde #WeDecideWA

Nearly 1/2 of #Medicaid enrollees are people of color. That makes the federal ban of abortion coverage a #racialequality issue. #WeDecideWA

4 in 10 women who have an abortion have incomes below the federal poverty line. Govt insurance needs to #CoverIt! #WeDecideWA #RepealHyde

Medicaid covers the cost of childbirth, but Congress bans it from covering abortion. #RepealHyde #WeDecideWA

The Medicaid ban of abortion isn't a cultural issue. It's an issue of #economics and #racialjustice. #WeDecideWA

No woman should have her decision about abortion made for her by a politician. #RepealHyde #WeDecideWA

#Women who want to get abortions but are denied are 3x more likely to fall into poverty than those who can get abortions. #WeDecideWA

Facebook Posts

Regardless of what health insurance she has, #everywoman in Seattle should have coverage of the full range of pregnancy care, including abortion. If you agree, share this post and continue fighting to ensure that all women have the fairness and equity they deserve when making reproductive health care decisions.

Women who are denied abortion care = 3 times more likely to fall into poverty than those who have access. Repealing abortion coverage bans is about economic justice. Join me in supporting Seattle's Resolution against the Hyde Amendment!

Nearly 1/2 of Medicaid enrollees are people of color. That makes the federal ban of abortion coverage under Hyde a racial equality issue. Make sure that #WeDecideWA and urge the Seattle City Council to #RepealHyde.

The Hyde Amendment denies abortion coverage to women on under publicly held insurance, disproportionately affecting low-income women, women of color, and immigrant women, while 4 in 10 women who have an abortion have incomes below the federal poverty line. Gov't insurance needs to #CoverIt. Support the Hyde Resolution and tell the Seattle City Council to urge Congress to #RepealHyde and make sure that #WeDecideWA.



**A PROUD SEATTLEITE
FOR LIFTING BANS
ON ABORTION COVERAGE.**

#BeBold
ALLABOVEALL.ORG



**A PROUD WASHINGTONIAN
FOR LIFTING BANS
ON ABORTION COVERAGE.**

#BeBold
ALLABOVEALL.ORG

Sample Letter to City Councilmembers

Dear Councilmember,

As a constituent, I am writing in support of and asking you to vote for the upcoming Hyde Resolution which would encourage federal lawmakers to once and for all give women equal access to abortion coverage under public insurance plans.

All women deserve the opportunity to access fair, timely, and affordable care without restrictions. These current restrictions set forth by the Hyde Amendment primarily target low-income women, women of color and immigrant women who already face significant barriers to accessing legal, safe and affordable health care options.

I hope that you will act now to urge Congress to lift these unfair restrictions on coverage of abortion care.

Sincerely,
<Your name>

Sample Letters to the Editor

Decision Focus:

Dear Editor,

Abortion funding for low-income women remains one of the main barriers to reproductive health equity in this country. That why the proposed local resolution calling for an end to the discriminatory practices of the Hyde Amendment is so exciting.

When it comes to a critical personal decision like abortion, it's better when a low-income woman – just like anyone else – can afford to consider all her options, instead of losing some of those options just because she's struggling to make ends meet. Decisions about whether to choose adoption, end a pregnancy, or raise a child are better left to those with intimate knowledge of the situation: a woman and her family in consultation with her health care provider.

We simply don't always know a woman's circumstances—we're not walking in her shoes. When it comes to the most important decisions in life, such as whether to become a parent, it is vital that a woman is able to consider all the options available to her, regardless of her income. It's time for politicians to stop interfering with a woman's ability to make her own important health care decisions by imposing restrictions on abortion coverage.

Sincerely,

Public Health Focus:

Dear Editor,

I commend the Seattle City Council and other cities around the nation who are determined to take up the cause of defending women's access to reproductive health services. When a woman decides to end her pregnancy, it is important that she has access to safe medical care. The best way to do this is by providing insurance coverage – whether public or private – so she will be able to see a licensed, quality health provider and make the best decisions for herself and her family.

Everyone faces different circumstances in life. It is imperative that we safeguard women's health and well-being no matter what the situation by ensuring that every woman has insurance coverage for maternity care and abortion care if she needs it without potentially harmful delay or interference. When it comes to the most important decisions in life, such as whether to become a parent, it is vital that a woman is able to consider all the options available to her, regardless of how she receives her health coverage.

It makes sense that health programs for women with low incomes cover birth control and abortion – not just childbirth – because when people can plan if and when to have children, it's good for them and for society as a whole.

I look forward to our city's continued engagement in raising awareness around this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Political Focus:

Dear Editor,

I am writing in support of the upcoming resolution gaining ground in the Seattle City Council, known as the Hyde Resolution, which would finally provide women with equal access to make their own health care decisions regarding their reproductive health by covering safe, legal abortions.

However we feel about abortion, it's not our place to make that personal decision for someone else. And it's certainly not the place of our elected officials. It is better that a woman makes that decision with her family and her faith. Holding back coverage from someone who is qualified and enrolled in Medicaid, just to make it impossible for her to have an abortion, is unconscionable. We can't let abortion care be excluded from health coverage just for political reasons.

Sincerely,