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**Reproductive Health Patient Navigator Act**

*Introduced by Congresswoman Susie Lee (D-NV) in the House and Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV) in the Senate*

**The Need:**

* Women’s access to reproductive health care services are in jeopardy nationwide as entities at the state, local and federal levels seek to make it more difficult, and near impossible, for women to access the health care services they need.
* From the United States Supreme Court’s ruling one year ago in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization,* which turned back the clock more than four decades to a time before *Roe* was accepted precedent, to the more recent case of *Hippocratic Medicine Alliance v. U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)*, attacks on women’s access to reproductive health care are not only coming from local, state and federal officials, but also our nation’s legal system.
* With fewer options available to women, it is critical to ensure women can find the reproductive health services they need and to support health care organizations that can help connect women to the resources available near them.

**Nationwide Impact:**

* Most abortions are now banned in 14 states,[[1]](#endnote-2) and almost half of all states are expected to try and enact bans on abortion or severe barriers to accessing abortion services.
* In states where abortion is now banned, women are being forced to endure harrowing, life-threatening pregnancies because politicians feel they should make their health choices for them.
* From Florida[[2]](#endnote-3) to Tennessee[[3]](#endnote-4) to Texas,[[4]](#endnote-5) women are fighting for their lives and enduring crushing medical procedures that are as a result of severe restrictions on abortion.

**What This Bill Does:**

* Creates a federal grant program to fund patient navigators, such as community health centers, who can help women access reproductive health care services.
* This grant program is modeled on similar programs that help cancer patients find and access cancer care services. It would help support health care organizations connect women with critical health care resources.
* This bill will ensure that women can get connected with the health care resources available to them that they need and deserve.[[5]](#endnote-6)[[6]](#endnote-7)[[7]](#endnote-8)[[8]](#endnote-9)

**Endorsements:**

* American Civil Liberties Union
* American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
* Planned Parenthood Federation of America
* Catholics for Choice
* National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association
* Center for Reproductive Rights
* National Women’s Law Center
* National Network of Abortion Funds

Cosponsors of the House version include: Reps. Blunt Rochester (D-DE), Troy Carter (D-LA), Gerald E. Connolly (D-VA), Jasmine Crockett (D-TX), Dwight Evans (D-PA), Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ), Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ), Jared Huffman (D-CA), Sydney Kamlager-Dove (D-CA), Ted Lieu (D-CA), Jennifer McClellan (D-VA), Adam Schiff (D-CA), Dina Titus (D-NV), Jill Tokuda (D-HI), David Trone (D-MD) Nikema Williams (D-GA), Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), Nanette Diaz Barragán (D-CA), Greg Landsman (D-OH), Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr. (D-GA), Frederica S. Wilson (D-FL), Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ), Yvette D. Clarke (D-NY), Lizzie Fletcher (D-TX), Sean Casten (D-IL), Terri A. Sewell (D-AL), Darren Soto (D-FL), Steven Horsford (D-NV), Jimmy Panetta (D-CA), Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX), Abigail Spanberger (D-VA), and Emilia Strong Sykes (D-OH).

Companion legislation is led by Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV) in the Senate.

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1. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2022/us/abortion-laws-roe-v-wade.html> [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
2. https://www.cnn.com/2023/05/02/health/florida-abortion-term-pregnancy/index.html [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
3. https://www.propublica.org/article/tennessee-abortion-ban-doctors-ectopic-pregnancy [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
4. https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/04/06/1168399423/a-good-friday-funeral-in-texas-baby-halos-parents-had-few-choices-in-post-roe-te [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
5. [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
6. [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
7. [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
8. [↑](#endnote-ref-9)