

January 20, 2015

Dear Members of the House of Representatives

We write to you as organizations strongly opposed to H.R. 36, an unconstitutional and dangerous limitation on abortion. H.R. 36 would impose a nationwide ban on abortions at twenty weeks with only two inadequate and extremely narrow exceptions.

H.R. 36 would make it harder for every woman across the country who needs an abortion and is already facing difficult circumstances. There are many reasons why a woman may need an abortion and²

suffer life-threatening injuries if the termination was not provided at that moment. Forcing health care providers into such an untenable situation is beyond cruel, and indeed could result in health care providers making the determination after it is too late to abort. *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113, 128 (1967), expressly excludes mental illness, meaning that a woman who is suicidal is denied an abortion that could save her life.

Not only is H.R. 36 cruel, but it is also unconstitutional and a direct challenge to *Roe v. Wade*, which held that states may not ban abortion prior to fetal viability, and that viability bans

Sincerely,

Advocatesfor Youth
American Association of University Women
American Civil Liberties Union
American Public Health Association
American Sexual Health Association
Black Women's Health Imperative
Catholics for Choice
Center for Reproductive Rights
Feminist Majority
Haddassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc
Institute for Science and Human Values
Methodist Federation for Social Action
Metropolitan Community Churches
NARAL Pro-Choice America
National Abortion Federation
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Council of Jewish Women
National Health Law Program
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Organization for Women
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Women's Health Network
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PeopleFor the American Way
Physicians for Reproductive Health
Population Connection Action Fund
Population Institute
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Reproductive Health Technologies Project
Secular Coalition for America
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)
Unitarian Universalist Association
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity