

City of Ithaca Proclamation

Whereas, in the last 43 years since the landmark decision in *Roe v. Wade*, access to abortion care has allowed women to participate more fully in society, saved lives, and strengthened families and communities; and

Whereas, health insurance, whether private or government funded, should cover the full range of a woman's options when she is facing an unintended pregnancy, so that she is able to make the decision she deems best for her and her family without interference; and

Whereas, the Hyde Amendment, passed by Congress on September 30, 1976, has for 40 years denied federal abortion coverage for low-income women enrolled in the Medicaid health insurance program, significantly impeding their ability to access abortion and creating an insurmountable barrier for many women seeking abortion; and

Whereas, New York and other states offer vital health care to fill the gap left by the federal Hyde Amendment by providing those enrolled in the state Medicaid plan with coverage for the full range of pregnancy-related services, including abortion; and

Whereas, many women in Ithaca, New York, including state and federal employees, Peace Corps members, and beneficiaries of Indian Health Services and military insurance programs, obtain insurance coverage through other public insurance programs that include restrictions that withhold coverage for abortion; and

Whereas, September 30, 2016 marks the 40th year of the federal Hyde Amendment, which denies women use of Medicaid insurance for abortion and represents the nexus of deeply entrenched economic injustice, racism, and gender inequity; and

Whereas, the EACH Woman Act, introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives in July 2015, would expand coverage for abortion services to women currently denied by ensuring that every woman who receives care or insurance through the federal government will have coverage for abortion services; and by prohibiting political interference in private insurance coverage of abortion; and

Whereas, when health insurance coverage for abortion is restricted, the harm falls hardest on those who already face significant barriers to receiving high-quality health care, such as low-income women, immigrant women, young women, women of color, and transgender and gender-nonconforming people,

Now, therefore, I, SVANTE L. MYRICK, Mayor of the City of Ithaca, do hereby proclaim that the City of Ithaca, New York call upon Congress and President Obama to support and reinstate insurance coverage for abortion services for women enrolled in public insurance programs by enacting the EACH Woman Act;

In Witness whereof, I have hereto set my hand and caused the great seal of the City of Ithaca to be affixed this the 30th day of August in the year 2016.




Svante L. Myrick, Mayor