

UPDATE FROM LWVIN WOMEN'S HEALTH ADVOCATES December 31, 2021

Even though the U.S. Supreme Court won't announce their ruling on Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization until June of 2022, legal experts are **predicting that Roe will be overturned in part or entirely.**

The Guttmacher Institute says that "[26 States Are Certain or Likely to Ban Abortion Without Roe: Here's Which Ones and Why.](#)" Indiana DOES NOT have a trigger law that will automatically take effect if Roe is overturned, but **Indiana is counted as one of the states that will likely ban abortion soon.** State Senator Liz Brown announced after the September 1 Texas abortion ban after 6 weeks that she would propose similar legislation in Indiana. And it is possible that an actual "trigger ban" will be passed in the 2022 legislative session.

We have written a letter to our legislators and Governor opposing any version of Texas SB8 being introduced in Indiana. That letter is in the process of being approved by the state Board for circulation to the locals for their possible sign-ons.

In a recent blog, LWVUS wrote, "The League has been an advocate for equal access to health care, specifically reproductive justice, for decades. Our position and advocacy recognize that severe inequities in access to health care and reproductive justice lead to severe inequities in education and economic opportunities, especially for women of color and lower-income women." We know this to be true in Indiana. With our positions and the LWVUS administration behind us we will continue to lobby against any legislation in the 2022 General Assembly that surfaces to limit and prevent women from exercising their constitutional right to an abortion.

In addition, during the 2022 legislative session and in preparation for expected battles down the road, the LWVIN Women's Health Advocates will focus on and support contraception and non-abortion related bills (like freeing imprisoned women from shackles during childbirth) which strives to improve women's reproductive health. State Representative Rita Fleming, for example, plans to propose a bill like one passed four years ago in Ohio. That law requires hospitals to ensure that women who have just given birth are offered the option of long-term contraception before being discharged. LWVIN Women's Health Advocates with your assistance will work to support important bills for the improvement of women's health in Indiana as well as lobby against those egregious bills that aim to control the lives of women through limiting access to needed medical care through abortion.

To assist us in this work, we will participate in legislative updates from the Indiana Reproductive Freedom Roundtable and join their letters to state legislators opposing egregious anti-abortion bills and supporting bills which will improve the health and medical care of women across the State. We need to show support for the legislators who draft the bills and fight at the State House for the improvement of women's lives.

As of December 31, 2021 three Women's Health bills of interest had been filed. Here they are:

- **HB 1031 Wage History and Wage Range Inquiries (authored by Sue Errington).** This bill prohibits, with certain exceptions, an employer from using an applicant's wage history in the hiring process.
- **HB 1047 Sexual Health Education (authored by Sue Errington and Tonya Pfaff).** This bill prohibits the state board of education from distributing human immunodeficiency virus literature to students without the consent of the governing body of the school corporation the students attend.
- **HB 1067 Child Care (authored by Robin Schackleford).** This bill requires the division of family services to continue waiving copays for eligible families and reimburse eligible providers using funds allocated under the federal CRRSAA and CCDF until the federal pandemic emergency ends.

We will keep all of those on our email list posted as new bills are filed and acted upon.

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