



May 30, 2025

Dear Speaker McClinton and members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives,

On behalf of Women's Law Project and the Pennsylvanians we exist to serve, WLP strongly supports House Bill 1140, legislation to improve public health by expanding access to contraception.

Founded in 1974, the Women's Law Project is a nonprofit public interest legal organization working to defend and advance the rights of women, girls, and LGBTQ+ people in Pennsylvania and beyond. We have worked to expand access to contraceptive coverage for decades by seeking to require employers and insurers to provide equitable access to contraceptive coverage and eliminate the costs and other barriers to this essential health care.

Supporting House Bill 1140 is an important effort to improve maternal and infant health in Pennsylvania. Unintended pregnancies are associated with higher rates of long-term health complications for pregnant persons and infants, including maternal morbidity and mortality.

Insurance coverage of contraception is a critical priority: Unintended pregnancy rates are highest among those least able to afford contraception, particularly those who face additional barriers to accessing health care services including economic instability and/or discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

The U.S. has the highest rate of maternal mortality in comparison to other high-income countries, and severe racial disparities in adverse maternal health outcomes [persist in the Commonwealth](#), where Black women are two to three times more likely than white women to die of a pregnancy-related cause. [Black women, who are more likely to experience limited access to health insurance coverage, are also most likely](#) to have to miss taking their birth control because they are unable to access their next supply on time.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health's 2024 [Maternal Mortality Review Annual Report](#) recommends the state government "support universal easy access to affordable and effective contraception options" to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity in the Commonwealth.

Passing House Bill 1140 into law reflects this recommendation.

WLP has supported iterative versions of HB 1140 through many legislation sessions. In 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court's 2022 *Dobbs* decision explicitly put contraception at risk at the exact moment access – or lack of access - became more consequential. Now, passage is urgent as the federal government is actively working to prevent Pennsylvanians from accessing this basic healthcare.

Shortly after taking office, the Trump Administration issued an executive order rescinding previous orders intended to expand access to contraception. In March 2025, the Trump Administration ordered a Title X funding freeze seeking to actively depriving thousands of Pennsylvanians of access to critical reproductive healthcare covered by Title X, which includes contraception.

We urge you to support equitable access to critical reproductive healthcare by voting YES on House Bill 1140.

Sincerely,

Tara Murtha, on behalf of Women's Law Project
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