

March 16, 2015

Minority Leader Harry Reid  
United States Senate  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader Reid:

We, the undersigned organizations, object to the inclusion of an abortion restriction in S. 178, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, and appreciate your strong opposition to this restriction. Survivors of trafficking deserve comprehensive health care, not barriers to such care.

Helping survivors of trafficking should be a bipartisan effort, as it has been in previous years, not an opportunity to advance anti-women's health priorities. This provision includes a radical expansion of the Hyde amendment, which is an already unjust policy that prohibits federal funding for abortion care in most cases.

We oppose the Hyde amendment and any extension of abortion restrictions because they disproportionately impact low-income women and communities of color and deny people the ability to make personal medical decisions. To be clear, the language in S.178 is even more extreme than current policy; it codifies the Hyde amendment as it relates to the Domestic Trafficking Victims Fund and the fund is financed by fines and penalties paid by convicted federal offenders, not from tax dollars.

Thank you for standing strong against any attempt to play politics with women's lives. We support your efforts to strike the harmful abortion restriction, as Senator Leahy's amendment does, and appreciate your opposition to language that would harm the very people this bill is intended to help.

Signed,

Advocates for Youth  
Alliance for Justice  
American Association of University Women (AAUW)  
American Civil Liberties Union  
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
Black Women's Health Imperative  
Catholics for Choice  
Center for Reproductive Rights  
Disciples for Choice  
Disciples Justice Action Network  
Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.

Ibis Reproductive Health  
Institute for Science and Human Values  
Ipas  
Methodist Federation for Social Action  
NARAL Pro-Choice America  
National Abortion Federation  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association  
National Health Law Program  
National Institute for Reproductive Health  
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health  
National Organization for Women  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National Women's Health Network  
National Women's Law Center  
Physicians for Reproductive Health  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Population Connection Action Fund  
Pro-Choice Resources  
Reproductive Health Access Project  
Reproductive Health Technologies Project  
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)  
Trust Women/Silver Ribbon Campaign  
UltraViolet  
Union for Reform Judaism  
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity  
West Virginia Free