

# Reproductive Justice

*What specific legislative language or mechanisms would you back to support federal protections for reproductive justice?*

## **Beth Ellen Aduato**

I support the Women's Health Protection Act of 2022, which would prohibit "governmental restrictions on the provision of, and access to, abortion services" and the Ensuring Access to Abortion Act, which would prohibit "the interference, under color of State Law, with the provision of interstate abortion services and for other purposes." I stand with the National Organization for Women which is calling for a "new, filibuster-proof Congress that will codify abortion rights nationally" and we need state legislatures that will make protecting women's health a priority.

Further, we must push back against efforts to limit access to medication abortion (mifepristone). This safe and effective medication is used by most women seeking abortions. Whether clinicians can dispense mifepristone is a state-specific legal question. In New Jersey, we do not face this problem, but we must stand with our sisters across the country to guarantee their rights.

Finally, we must restore federal funding for Planned Parenthood, through Medicaid reimbursements. This is another attack on women's control over their own bodies. This defunding blocks people who use Medicaid from getting care at Planned Parenthood health centers and that means that over 1.1 million patients could now lose access to birth control, wellness visits, STI tests, and cancer screenings. Because of the Trump administration and Congress, women may have to travel far and wait longer for important health care, as demand increases at the PP centers that remain open. To paraphrase Ruth Bader Ginsburg—*all we ask of our brethren is to keep their laws off our reproductive system.*

## **Brian Varela**

Codifying Roe is essential, but it's not enough, we need to ensure that everyone, regardless of where they live or how much they earn, can actually access care. I'll cosponsor the Women's Health Protection Act to restore the legal right to abortion nationwide, and I'll champion the full reproductive freedom agenda: the Ensuring Women's Right to Reproductive Freedom Act to protect people who travel across state lines for care, the My Body, My Data Act to stop states from weaponizing personal health data to track and prosecute patients, and legislation like the Abortion Justice Act to tear down systemic barriers that have always made reproductive care harder to access for Black, brown, low-income, and LGBTQ+ individuals.

I'll also fight to protect contraception and IVF, rights that should never be up for debate. And I'll use every tool Congress has to block Republican efforts to revive the Comstock Act, gut EMTALA protections, or ban medication abortion. Reproductive freedom is fundamental, and I'll never stop fighting for it.

## **Megan O'Rourke**

I would support legislation and amendment language that protects not only access to abortion services but to contraception, fertility services, and medical care for pregnant women.

## **Michael Roth**

Every person deserves freedom to make their own healthcare decisions without interference from politicians. When the Trump Administration blocked funding to Planned Parenthood clinics during the pandemic, I made sure clinics received federal funding on my first day in the federal government. In Congress I will protect and expand reproductive freedom by:

- Codifying Roe v. Wade into federal law so every American has the right to make personal decisions about their body and future
- Protecting access to contraception and IVF and stopping any attempt to restrict reproductive care
- Ensuring access to reproductive healthcare by protecting and expanding federal funding for clinics, community health centers, and providers like Planned Parenthood so care is available regardless of zip code, removing barriers that limit providers' ability to deliver care, expanding telehealth, and guaranteeing coverage so care is affordable and without political interference
- Defending privacy and data protections so no one can be tracked or prosecuted for seeking healthcare

## **Rebecca Bennett**

I support codifying the Roe standard and taking politics out of the FDA to ensure all women have access to contraception and Plan B.

## **Tina Shah**

Every woman in this country has the right to make their own healthcare decisions. We need to enshrine reproductive rights and access to abortion care at the federal level. I was proud to see New Jersey codify the right to an abortion at the state level a few years ago, but we must fight these attacks nationally, and I will do so in Congress by supporting the Women's Health Protection Act. As a physician, I believe that we must include more than abortion in reproductive healthcare, such as insurance coverage for IVF, and expand support for women's health beyond reproductive care as well - including fully covered breast cancer screening and expanded treatment options for menopause.