

SUPPORT THE YOUTH HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT

The **Youth Health and Safety Act** reaffirms Illinois' commitment to the fundamental principle that every person has the right to make their own reproductive healthcare decisions without interference, and removes harmful barriers to reproductive healthcare for youth.

The Youth Health and Safety Act:

Creates a bipartisan working group focused on pregnant and parenting youth, and youth who may become pregnant and parents.

- ✔ Identifies existing and needed resources for youth in the areas of: education, housing, employment, trafficking, food access, and childcare.
- ✔ Provides information and resources related to access to healthcare for minors.
- ✔ Provides resources and tools that support and encourage healthy communication between young people and their parents and other support systems.
- ✔ 10 of the 24 working group members will be young people who can speak directly to the issues affecting them and provide expertise about how to engage their peers.

Repeals the dangerous forced parental involvement law.

- ✔ The majority of young people voluntarily tell a parent about an unplanned pregnancy.
- ✔ Those who do not tell a parent often involve another family member or trusted adult.
- ✔ The minority of young people who do not talk to their parents often have concerns such as: fear of physical or emotional abuse, loss of financial support, or homelessness; fear of being forced to give birth against their will; or serious family problems such as a parent who is sick or imprisoned.
- ✔ Illinois law permits pregnant minors to make all other medical decisions without involving a parent or going to court. A pregnant minor can decide independently whether to continue the pregnancy and give birth, consent to medical care such as a cesarean section, or place a child for adoption. Only when a young person decides to end their pregnancy does the government force them to involve their family.
- ✔ Every leading medical organization opposes forced parental involvement laws, including: The American Medical Association; The American Academy of Pediatrics; The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; The Society for Adolescent Medicine; and The American Public Health Association.

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
ACLU of Illinois
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
American Association of University Women
Apna Ghar, Inc. (Our Home)
Catholics for Choice
Chicago Abortion Fund
Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation
Chicago Democratic Socialists of America
Chicago Foundation for Women
Chicago NOW
Chicago Votes
Citizen Action Illinois
Coalition for a Better Illinois 6th
Democratic Women of McDonough County
Equality Illinois
EverThrive Illinois
Family Planning Associates
Friends Who March
Health and Medicine Policy Research Group
Hope Clinic for Women
Human Rights Watch Chicago
Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health
Illinois Choice Action Team
Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault
Illinois Democratic Women
Illinois Handmaids
Illinois NOW
Indivisible Chicago
Indivisible Illinois
Lake County Democratic Women
League of Women Voters Illinois

Life Span
Mainstream Republican Committee
McHenry County Citizens for Choice
McHenry NOW
Midwest Access Coalition
Midwest Access Project
Men4Choice
Mujeres Latinas en Accion
NARAL Pro-Choice America
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Association of Social Workers Illinois
Chapter
National Council of Jewish Women Illinois
North & NW Suburban NOW
Personal PAC
Planned Parenthood Illinois Action
Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and
Southwest Missouri
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
Reproductive Health Access Project – Illinois Cluster
Reproductive Transparency Now
Resilience
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
She Votes Illinois
Sierra Club Illinois
The Network: Advocating Against Domestic Violence
Vote Mama
Whole Woman's Health
Whole Woman's Health Alliance
Winnebago County Citizens for Choice
Women's March Chicago
Women's March Illinois
Zioness Chicago Chapter