CONGRESSWOMAN
NIKEMA WILLIAMS
Georgia's 5th Congressional District

Resolution Condemning the Criminalization of Essential Healthcare

To oppose the use of State power to criminalize providing or accessing essential health care, like abortion, contraception, and gender-affirming care.

Coleads: Alma S. Adams Ph.D. (NC-12), Veronica Escobar (TX-16), Lois Frankel (FL-22), and Teresa Leger Fernandez (NM-03)

The Resolution Condemning the Criminization of Essential Healthcare condemns the use of state power against people in the United States seeking essential health care, including criminalization of the full range of sexual and reproductive health care such as abortion, gender-affirming care, and contraceptive care, and disapproving of State punishment of people for their pregnancy outcomes.

Endorsing Organizations: Center for Reproductive Rights, SisterReach, Inc., Catalyst Miami, Last Mile4D, If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice, Positive Women's Network-USA, Reproductive Health Access Project, BMMA, Inc. (Black Mamas Matter Alliance), Ipas US, All Above All, National Health Law Program, Ibis Reproductive Health, American Society for Reproductive Medicine, Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, National Network to End Domestic Violence, International Action Network for Gender Equity & Law (IANGEL), National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health, Physicians for Reproductive Health, Power to Decide, Elephant Circle, State Innovation Exchange, Woodhull Freedom Foundation, Centering Equity, Race, and Cultural Literacy in Family Planning, SIECUS: Sex Ed for Social Change, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Jewish Women's Action Alliance Arizona, National Council of Jewish Women, Reproductive Freedom for All, National Women's Political Caucus, GLMA, Abortion Access Front, Friends of the Earth, Religious Community for Reproductive Choice, National Network of Abortion Funds, Guttmacher Institute, National Abortion Federation, RJ Squared LLC, Abortion Action Missouri, and National Birth Equity Collaborative.

Why does this matter?

In the years since Roe vs. Wade was overturned, states have attempted to impose civil
and criminal penalties on people who help others access gender-affirming and reproductive health care. States have attempted to curtail out-of-State travel for
abortion care or the facilitation thereof, in violation of basic constitutional principles. States are also violating the sanctity of the doctor-patient relationship by passing laws threa-ening provider licensure, certification, or renewal, if even suspected of providing care, regardless of conviction.

At the same, states have attacked the rights of patients, providers, and parents and caregivers to seek or provide access to gender-affirming care. In direct contradiction to the recommendations of major medical organizations, more than half of States around the country have advanced legislation designed to severely limit access to necessary gender-affirming care, especially for young people.

The result is more patients - and especially Black women - are facing criminalization by the state, and persecution which limits their ability to access essential healthcare.

By the Numbers:

- Abortion is banned outright in 13 states. [1]
- In an additional 6 States, abortion is banned between 6 and 12 weeks gestation, often before a pregnancy is known. [2]
- Abortion bans are associated with a 9% increase in pregnancy related or associated mortality. [3]
- 28 states have laws limiting youth access to gender affirming care. [4]

[1] https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/abortion-in-the-u-s-dashboard/
[2] https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/abortion-in-the-u-s-dashboard/
[3] https://publichealth.jhu.edu/2026/study-higher-maternal-death-rate-in-states-with-abortion-bans
[4] https://www.kff.org/lgbtq/gender-affirming-care-policy-tracker/