

# **Reproductive Health Care Accessibility Act**

*Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) and Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)*

All Americans deserve to decide if, when, and how to start and raise a family—including the roughly one in four adults with disabilities, who report wanting children as much as those without disabilities do. But people with disabilities have long experienced discrimination and barriers when accessing sexual and reproductive health care. They are also less likely to receive contraception counseling and timely prenatal care, experience a higher rate of sterilization, and are at a greater risk for adverse pregnancy outcomes. And they face other barriers to accessing reproductive care, such as a lack of accessibility at health care facilities, accessible medical diagnostic equipment, accessible travel, and health care providers trained on how to treat and address the unique, diverse needs of people with disabilities receiving reproductive health care.

The Supreme Court's decision overturning *Roe v. Wade* has ripped away women's right to decide for themselves whether or not to keep a pregnancy—and now more than ever, disabled people need to be able to get the informed and accessible sexual and reproductive health care they need.

Senators Murray and Duckworth's *Reproductive Health Care Accessibility Act* would lower barriers to sexual and reproductive care and help ensure disabled people get timely access to culturally competent health care. Specifically, their bill would:

- Provide grant funding to eligible entities to carry out training programs for health care professionals providing reproductive health care for individuals with disabilities;
- Expand the physician and nursing workforce by increasing the representation of people with disabilities in such workforces;
- Provide grant funding to carry out education programs focused on the sexual and reproductive health care needs of people with disabilities;
- Establish a new technical assistance center to provide recommendations and best practices regarding sexual and reproductive health care for people with disabilities; and
- Direct the Department of Health and Human Services to carry out a study to analyze reproductive health care for people with disabilities.

The *Reproductive Health Care Accessibility Act* is supported by: National Disability Rights Network; National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities; Dr. Jamila Taylor, Director of Health Care Reform and Senior Fellow at The Century Foundation; Kimberly Knackstedt, Ph.D., Co-Director of the Disability Economic Justice Collaborative and Senior Fellow at The Century Foundation; URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity; Johns Hopkins School of Nursing; Johns Hopkins Disability Health Research Center; Physicians for Reproductive Health; Catholics for Choice; National Partnership for Women and Families; Power to Decide; Docs With Disabilities Initiative; NARAL Pro-Choice America; National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice; Center for American Progress; Planned Parenthood Federation of America; Advocates for Youth; Center for Reproductive Rights; and National Council of Jewish Women.