



POLICY AGENDA

ENSURE ALL PEOPLE CAN ACCESS THE HEALTH CARE THEY NEED

The nation is confronting a comprehensive attack on the health, safety, and overall well-being of women, LGBTQIA+ people, and families. This effort is unfolding against the backdrop of new and ongoing barriers to reproductive health care following the Supreme Court's devastating decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, as well as continued impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. Congress and the Trump-Vance administration have [taken health care and coverage away from people and rendered what remains less affordable, less comprehensive, and less equitable](#). Key federal offices responsible for public health and health equity [have been gutted](#), [Medicaid faces the largest cuts](#) in the program's history, [women's health has been threatened](#), and the [erosion of diversity, equity, and inclusion](#) have [impeded efforts to address costly health disparities](#), particularly for Black, Latinx, and Indigenous communities.

PEOPLE WANT POLICIES THAT PROTECT AND STRENGTHEN ACCESS TO LOW-COST, COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE

Polling from 2025 and 2026 shows that [health equity](#) and [health care costs are leading issues](#) for an overwhelming majority of adults in the United States. Importantly, most feel it is the [responsibility of the federal government](#) to ensure all Americans have health care coverage and that lawmakers should [focus on lowering health care costs, not taking away coverage](#). Most recognize that “[women have unique health needs](#) and deserve a health care system that does a better job addressing their needs,” including access to [birth control](#), and [support policies guaranteeing rights and access to abortion](#). Yet many voters [feel elected officials are not prioritizing women's health](#); and [LGBTQ+ youth say their mental health has been negatively impacted by recent politics](#).

In order to build a health care system that works for everyone, states must enact a range of policies to ensure that each person can access the full spectrum of health care they need—including abortion, contraception, fertility care, and gender-affirming care—when and where they want or need it, without financial difficulty, discrimination, barriers, or stigma.

Policies that will work together to ensure that all people can access the health care they need include:

- [Guaranteeing and expand abortion access](#)
- [Combating anti-abortion centers](#)
- [Bolstering privacy protections for pregnant people and abortion care providers](#)
- Protecting abortion providers from employment discrimination (see, e.g., [here](#) and [here](#))
- [Protecting workers from discrimination based on their reproductive health decisions](#)
- Protecting against discrimination in health care, including by passing nondiscrimination protections similar to [Section 1557](#) of the Affordable Care Act
- [Protecting patients from refusals of care](#)
- [Enshrining protections for contraception in state law](#)
- [Ensuring survivors have access to emergency contraception in the emergency room](#)
- [Protecting access to Medicaid](#)
- Ensuring comprehensive access to health care for transgender people (see, e.g., [here](#) and [here](#))
- Replacing laws allowing [forced sterilization](#) with laws that protect disabled people's autonomy
- [Protecting and expanding fertility care access](#)
- [Addressing maternal mortality and other maternal health disparities](#)
- Safeguarding health care facilities, schools, and child care centers against intimidation and surveillance by immigration and law enforcement (see, e.g., [here](#) and [here](#))
- Drafting legislation with intentional consideration of the legislation's intersectionality and including a [racial impact and health impact statement](#) on every piece of legislation