



NATIONAL LATINA INSTITUTE FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

## STATEMENT ON ABORTION RIGHTS

The National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health (NLIRH) is outraged that Congress and President Bush would support a ban on a medically safe abortion procedure. As an organization that is dedicated to ensuring the fundamental human right to reproductive health care for Latinas, their families, and their communities, we join in the widespread opposition to the recently passed bill, which will drastically inhibit a woman's right to choose, as well as prohibit medically safe procedures that are often necessary to protect and save women's lives.

NLIRH supports the right of every Latina to be in charge of her own life, to determine if and when to have children, and, to seek the full range of reproductive health options available. Contrary to popular belief, Latinas do access abortion services, and 51% of Latinas actively identify as pro-choice. We support the right of every Latina to make her own personal and private decision. For Latinas, accessing abortion services is often difficult already, due to cultural, linguistic, legal, and economic barriers, and banning safe abortion procedures only further impedes upon our right to choose what is medically and personally appropriate for us.

Restricting and criminalizing any abortion procedure undermines the fundamental human right to self-determination, and endangers the lives of women for whom abortion may be medically necessary. Decisions regarding when to have children are often difficult, personal, and morally complicated, and should be made only by the woman.

**NLIRH encourages every Latina to raise her voice in opposition to government restrictions on abortion rights and demand access to all reproductive health care options!**

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