

May 22, 2013

Dear Representative:

We, the undersigned, organizations that support the health and rights of immigrant women, **write to express our strong opposition to the Carter-Aderholt amendment to the FY 2014 House Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act.** This provision is a mean-spirited attack on health care access and decision making for immigrant women.

**The amendment does more than simply duplicate existing bad policy that restricts access to abortion for women in detention—it is a cruel, politicized attack on the ability of some of the most vulnerable women in our society to make decisions about their health.** Advocates and policymakers have been working together to improve humanitarian conditions for women in detention, by setting basic standards for health care and starting to address the epidemic of sexual violence. This amendment would take us backward, making an already dire circumstance even more difficult for women in federal immigration custody.

Some politicians seek to make abortion illegal, but they can't, so they continually seek to impose abortion restrictions on women with the least means to fight back. **We urge you to oppose harmful restrictions on women's reproductive decision making, including the Carter-Aderholt amendment.** Women in detention are separated from their children, their partners, and their health care providers. They have been denied HIV medication, forced to give birth in shackles, and sexually assaulted by guards. This amendment, and any restriction on reproductive health decision making, is yet **another insult and humiliation for women who are already facing terrible circumstances.** Immigrant women's health should never be used as a political bargaining chip.

Should you have any questions about this or other legislation, please do not hesitate to contact Kimberly Inez McGuire, National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health at [Kimberly@latinainstitute.org](mailto:Kimberly@latinainstitute.org).

Sincerely,

Abortion Care Network  
Advocates for Women  
Advocates for Youth  
AIDS United  
ASISTA Immigration Assistance  
Black Women's Health Imperative  
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice  
Catholics for Choice  
Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)  
Center on Reproductive Rights and Justice at Berkeley Law  
Choice USA  
Civil Liberties and Public Policy Program  
Empire Justice Center

Feminist Majority  
Forward Together  
Guam Communications Network  
Jahajee Sisters  
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California  
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund  
NARAL Prochoice America  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council of Women's Organizations  
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health  
National Network of Abortion Funds  
National Women's Health Network  
Nevada County Citizens for Choice  
North Carolina Immigrant Rights Project  
Nursing Students for Choice  
Physicians for Reproductive Health  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Pro-Choice Resources  
Provide  
Refugio del Rio Grande  
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice  
Reproductive Health Technologies Project  
Sakhi for South Asian Women  
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)  
SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective  
Unitarian Universalist Association  
Women Have Options  
Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual (WATER)  
Women's Law Project  
Women Watch Afrika, Inc.  
Worker Justice Center of New York  
Young Women United