



Legislative Testimony  
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**Written Testimony Supporting House Bill 6618, An Act Concerning Medical Assistance for Certain Provisions Receiving Abortion Care and Related Services in Connecticut**

Senator Lesser, Representative Gilchrest, Ranking Members Seminara and Case, and distinguished members of the Human Services Committee:

My name is Jess Zaccagnino, and I am the policy counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT). I am writing to testify in support of House Bill 6618, An Act Concerning Medical Assistance for Certain Provisions Receiving Abortion Care and Related Services in Connecticut.

The ACLU-CT unwaveringly supports the constitutional right to seek an abortion. Across the country, states are passing increasingly radical, restrictive laws designed to ban abortion outright. When states pass abortion bans, the burden falls on the patient who needs access to essential, time-sensitive care; providers; and clinics in neighboring states that allow abortion care. When one state passes a restrictive abortion ban, other states follow the same playbook and take it even a step further, leading to a wave of increasingly radical and extreme abortion bans across the country in the wake of the *Dobbs* decision.

Access to abortion is not just about its legality, but also about humanity, dignity, and freedom. Now that the U.S. Supreme Court has turned its back on nearly fifty years of precedent in *Roe v. Wade* and its progeny, people across the country will be – and already have been -- forced to remain pregnant against their will, endangering their mental and physical health, their lives and futures, and their family's lives and

futures. Because of systemic racism, we know that those hurt first and worst are Black and brown people, and those who are low income.

Connecticut must act quickly to dismantle barriers to abortion and ensure that abortion is accessible, affordable, and available to all. Everyone deserves access to abortion care in their community, on the timeline they choose, and by the provider they trust. That is now not a reality for many people in this country, and Connecticut must do its part to ensure that everyone seeking an abortion and related services in this state receives the care that they need.

The ACLU-CT believes in a future where everyone can make decisions about pregnancy and parenting that are the best for them, which includes access to safe, legal, and affordable abortion. As anti-abortion politicians across the country deny our freedom and obstruct access to abortion, the ACLU-CT supports legislation that increases access to abortion. The ACLU-CT strongly supports House Bill 6618 and urges this Committee to do the same.