Mike’s Plan to Protect Reproductive Rights

At some point in her life, nearly every woman will decide whether to have children, when to have children, with whom to have children and how to have children — a decision that should be hers to make. An average women might spend 30 years of her life trying to avoid pregnancy, a burden that is disproportionately borne by women.

This is why Mike Bloomberg has advocated for women’s reproductive rights for decades. He has supported the work of organizations like Planned Parenthood and as mayor of New York City, he increased access to affordable birth control and championed programs that helped women avoid unintended pregnancies.

Unfortunately, the Trump administration has also made taking away women’s reproductive choices one of its primary goals. One Trump’s first actions as president was to reinstate and expand what is known as the “Mexico City Policy,” which requires foreign nongovernmental organizations that receive U.S. aid to certify that they will not perform or promote abortion. The Trump administration has also:

- Attempted to roll back the Affordable Care Act requirement that insurers cover contraceptives by allowing virtually any nongovernmental employer to refuse to cover contraceptives on moral or religious objections;
- Banned organizations that receive Title X funding from performing abortions or referring patients for them;
- Required plans sold on the individual market to send a separate bill for abortion coverage — meaning consumers will soon pay their normal premiums and then a second premium if their plan included abortion coverage;
- Nominated more than a hundred judges who are hostile toward reproductive rights.

This signaled to women everywhere the president’s intention to undermine, in every way possible, a women’s right to safe and legal abortion. Unfortunately, states have followed Trump’s lead, enacting far-reaching, restrictive bills designed to roll back women’s reproductive rights. Emboldened by two new Supreme Court Justices and their potential opportunity to overturn Roe v. Wade, states have been passing laws that ban abortion as early as six weeks into pregnancy. And Alabama has passed a law that prohibits abortion at any time, unless a woman’s health is at serious risk. Even access to affordable and effective birth control is being restricted.

The threats that these policies pose to women’s health—not to mention women’s standing as equal members of our nation’s economic and civic life—cannot be underestimated. This is why Mike Bloomberg has made reproductive health a priority issue of his presidential campaign.

2 Department of Health and Human Services, Religious Exemptions and Accommodations for Coverage of Certain Preventive Services Under the Affordable Care Act, 2017
3 Center for American Progress, Contraceptive Coverage Under the Affordable Care Act, October 2017
4 Health Affairs, After Title X Regulation Changes: Difficult Questions for Policymakers and Providers, September 2019
5 Federal Register, Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: Exchange Program Integrity, November 2018
6 Planned Parenthood, Federal Judges Tracker
7 Vox, All the near-total abortion bans passed this year have now been blocked in court, October 2019
1. Mike will expand access to reproductive health services by working with Congress to codify *Roe v. Wade* and repeal the Hyde Amendment, which bars federal funding for abortion except to save a woman’s life. He will also abolish both the domestic and global gag rules the Trump administration has applied to organizations that receive funding for family planning.

2. Mike will oppose states’ bans on private insurance coverage of abortion, which 11 states\(^8\) have passed. He will oppose unnecessarily restrictive and often frivolous regulations on reproductive health clinics and doctors that limit women’s access to safe abortions. He will empower the FDA to make decisions based on science\(^9\), including a review of its current guidelines for mifepristone, which cannot currently be sold without a prescription. He will appoint federal judges who respect established legal precedent.

3. To address OB/GYN shortages\(^10\), Mike will encourage states to allow trained nurse practitioners, physicians assistants and other medical professionals such as certified nurse midwives to perform abortions services, rather than limiting the provision of those services to doctors. He will also ensure sufficient support for programs that train OB-GYN residents on pregnancy termination procedures. Because so many clinics and clinicians that provide abortion services are often attacked, Mike would enforce laws that protect the clinics and their patients. He would also double federal funding to Community Health Centers and increase funding for Title X providers.

4. Mike will also expand access to birth control by reversing the Trump administration’s efforts to expand religious and moral exemptions in the Affordable Care Act for companies that do not wish to provide insurance coverage for contraceptives in employee health plans.

5. Mike will direct federal funding to comprehensive and science-based sexual health education.

6. Mike will expand access to broadband across the country—especially in rural counties—to facilitate telehealth services. Telehealth offers a promising way to increase access to prescription contraceptives. He will also encourage states to allow health care providers to prescribe birth control and mifepristone and misoprostol via telehealth when appropriate; champion the improvement of scope of practice laws to increase access to health care services; and enable medical providers to treat patients across state lines.

Taken together, these actions will protect women’s reproductive choice, and improve the health of all women.

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\(^8\) Guttmacher Institute, *Regulating Insurance Coverage of Abortion*

\(^9\) FDA, *Center for Disease Evaluation and Research*

\(^10\) Doximity, *2019 OB-GYN Workforce Study*, September 2019