



July 14, 2014

The Honorable
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator,

On behalf of our 500,000 members nationwide, Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee (CWALAC) wishes to express our opposition to S. 1696, the Women's Health Protection Act (WHPA). Despite its carefully chosen name, this bill, introduced by Sen. Blumenthal, would actually be a threat to women's health.

In 2011 alone, state lawmakers passed 92 abortion-restricting laws, including waiting periods, parental notification, clinic safety, ultrasound, and informed consent mandates.¹ The WHPA will deem most, if not all, of these previously enacted state laws illegal, overturning good abortion regulatory state legislation, all in the name of "women's health." These laws to protect women's health exist because of the grave concerns of state lawmakers.

History has shown us that when regulations on abortion clinics and doctors are dismissed, women are at a high risk of receiving poor care, being maimed, or even dying! The atrocities committed by abortion doctor Kermit Gosnell testify to this horrific truth. If abortion-restricting measures are stripped away and abortion providers are entrusted to set their own standards, women will be taken advantage of and a low standard in regards to their health and safety will become precedent. It is a dishearteningly ironic that the very name of this legislation stands in direct opposition to its inevitable outcomes.

It is frightening that the WHPA grants the abortion provider, not the states, the authority to set standards of care for their patients. This is deeply concerning as it demands that the interests of the *for-profit* abortion clinic doctors supersede that of their patients!

We urge you to boldly oppose S. 1696 in order to protect women. If this legislation is considered on the Senate floor, CWALAC will score against it and will include the vote in our annual scorecard.

Sincerely,

Penny Young Nance
Chief Executive Officer and President
Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee

¹ "States Enact Record Number of Abortion Restrictions in 2011," *Gutmacher Institute*, January 5, 2012
<http://www.gutmacher.org/media/inthenews/print/2012/01/05/endofyear.html> (accessed on July 8, 2014).