



## 2020 ISSUE PAPER: REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

### Position Statement

The League of Women Voters believes reproductive health care should be affordable, available, and should provide a comprehensive range of services including abortions.

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### Summary of Issues for the 2020 Legislative Session

Legislation dealing with access to contraception and abortion rights has been introduced during the past several legislative sessions, and during the 2019 Legislative session HB 5602 'Eliminating barriers to reproductive healthcare' which prohibits discrimination based on gender or gender-identity and immigration status passed into law.

**Background:** Abortion was legal across the United States until the 1890s. In the 1890s religious authorities and some politicians advocated for a ban on abortions. Consequently, during the 1960s several groups organized to advocate for the legalization of abortion. In 1973 the Supreme Court ruled that the issue of abortion and abortion rights falls under the right of privacy. The court found that a mother had a right to abortion until viability, a point to be determined by the attending physician.

The birth control movement began during the early 1900s with Margaret Sanger's advocacy. In 1936 the U.S. court ruled that medically prescribing contraception to save a person's life or wellbeing was not illegal. By 1937 national surveys showed that 71% of the adult population supported the use of contraception. The Affordable Care Act requires all plans in the Health Insurance Marketplace to cover contraceptive methods.

### Resources:

<https://www.plannedparenthood.org/>

<https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-great-northwest-hawaiian-islands>

<http://www.prochoiceamerica.org/about-us/>

<http://www.wcsap.org/>

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