

## **Social Justice Committee proposal to Hebrew Tabernacle Board**

**Resolution on Reproductive Health and Rights:** *We at Hebrew Tabernacle endorse these principles from the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism & Women of Reform Judaism:* The Reform Movement's positions on reproductive rights are grounded in the core belief that each person should have agency and autonomy over their own bodies. Our advocacy around abortion access is inspired by the Jewish value of kavod ha'briyot, respect for individual dignity. This same sanctity underscores the vital need for medically accurate sexuality education, affordable family planning services, and high-quality maternal and women's health care.

We strive to work in partnership with both secular and faith-based organizations and build relationships across lines of faith, race, and other differences to create a world in which every person is able to shape their reproductive lives with dignity.

### **Why Should Jews Care?**

Life is sacred in Judaism. Banning potentially life-saving medical procedures and interfering with a patient's decision-making and moral agency runs contrary to the Jewish commandment to protect life. This belief, combined with biblical and rabbinic emphasis on human dignity, has led the Reform Movement to view the life of the pregnant individual as paramount, placing a stronger emphasis on protecting existing life than on potential life (Exodus 21:22-23).

Furthermore, the rabbis tell us that a physician's job is to heal, and if they withhold medical care, it is as if they have shed blood. "The Torah has granted the physician permission to heal, and it is a religious duty which comes under the rule of saving an endangered life. If he withholds treatment, he is regarded as one who sheds blood" (Shulchan Arukh, Yoreh De'ah 336:1). Regressive state laws that prevent physicians and other providers from providing health care is in direct opposition to this sacred duty.

**Joint statement by Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), and Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ) after the Supreme Court reversed Roe v Wade:** <https://wrj.org/press-room/reform-movement-leaders-denounce-supreme-courts-decision-dob-vs-jackson-womens-health>

**The RAC is partnering with Women of Reform Judaism on the WRJ-RAC Reproductive Health & Rights Campaign:** WRJ brings Jewish communities together to pursue reproductive health and rights as a collective voice. WRJ's work recognizes that reproductive rights mean more than abortion. Therefore, we are active in many aspects of reproductive rights.

**Hebrew Tabernacle's Yad b'Yad: The Legacy of Sisterhood, is affiliated with Women of Reform Judaism.**

**Immediate actions to take to preserve and advance access to abortion, are in this joint URJ and WRJ Resource Guide:** <https://rac.org/blog/path-forward-abortion-resource-guide>