



**For Immediate Release**

**NWPC-VA TO VIRGINIA: GET OUT THE PRO-CHOICE VOTE  
FOR OUR FAMILIES & OUR FUTURE**

With one week to go before Virginia's Election Day, the National Women's Political Caucus of Virginia (NWPC-VA) underscores our commitment to women's healthcare equity, including access to affordable birth control, maternal healthcare, and abortion care, and to our endorsed candidates who support those rights.

Women's healthcare regularly has been under attack in U.S. courts and state legislatures for the past two decades, most significantly with 2021's Texas Bill HB 8, which effectively bans abortion at six weeks and empowers citizens to sue providers and anyone who helps a woman access their services, and 2014's SCOTUS *Burwell v Hobby Lobby* decision, which empowers employers to control their employees' access to birth control. Of the recent Texas law NWPC President Donna Lent stated, "Politicians in Texas are denying vital healthcare in the name of policing women's bodies... Now or soon, similar laws could be enacted in states across the country." Now, women's healthcare is a key campaign issue in Virginia.

It is unconscionable that American women continue to have the highest maternal mortality rate of all wealthy industrialized nations, as well as the most difficulty paying for healthcare. Access is becoming increasingly problematic, especially for lower income and rural populations. At present, twelve states allow some health care providers to refuse to provide services related to contraception. And this year alone, nineteen states have enacted 106 restrictions on access to abortion—the highest number since the *Roe v. Wade* decision in 1973. Women use contraception because it enables them to better care for themselves and their families, finish their education and achieve financial security. One of the most frequently cited reasons women had abortions was the lack of financial resources to care for a child, according to the Guttmacher Institute.

Attempting to address the dismal state of affairs, the General Assembly expanded Medicaid in 2019, providing access to birth control, comprehensive health care benefits during pregnancy, and for two months after the baby's birth to 550,000 previously ineligible Virginians. The Reproductive Health Protection Act of 2020 repealed targeted restrictions on abortion providers, and in January the legislature voted to repeal a ban on abortion coverage for plans offered through private insurers participating in the state exchange. All of these initiatives have made the lives of Virginians better.

The NWPC-VA firmly believes that every Virginian has the right to privacy when it comes to their healthcare decisions. Lawmakers with no medical experience should not be involved. The NWPC-VA urges Virginians to stand up and vote for candidates who will support healthcare equity and the right to privacy for everyone, as is guaranteed in the 14th Amendment to the Constitution.

The NWPC-VA remains pro-family and pro-choice and urges all Virginians to vote for our future. Visit our website to see the accomplished women NWPC-VA has endorsed in the House of Delegates race: [www.nwpc-va.org](http://www.nwpc-va.org). These candidates know what is at stake. We will not go back.