

March 23, 2023

Senate Legislative Operations and Election Committee
Assembly Legislative Operations and Election Committee
Nevada State Senate and Assembly
Legislative Building
Carson City, NV 89701

Testimony in support of SJR7

Chairs Orenschall and Gorelow, and Members of the Joint Legislative Operations Committee,

My name is Serena Evans, and I am Policy Director for the Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (NCEDSV). NCEDSV and our 13 program members across the state are submitting our support of SJR7.

Reproductive freedom and choice are essential tools for victim-survivors of domestic and sexual violence for safety planning and their ability to break free from abuse. After the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, we have seen lawmakers nationwide enact legislation to ban abortion care and limit access to other reproductive measures. While Nevada is, and will remain, a safe place for those seeking abortion care, this proposed measure will ensure access to all portions of reproductive healthcare, including the right to obtain birth control, prenatal care, birthing and postpartum care, vasectomy and tubal ligation, miscarriage management, and infertility care. We are seeing that attacks on reproductive healthcare are not stopping at abortion access, and so SJR7 is necessary to ensure that Nevadans continue to have access to many important aspects of reproductive health and freedom.

Many victim-survivors of intimate partner violence experience some form of reproductive coercion. Reproductive coercion can look like but is not limited to:

- Prohibiting the use of/or destroying contraception such as birth control pills, IUD;s, hormonal rings, or patches;
- Purposefully removing condoms during intercourse without their partner's knowledge, also known as 'stealthling';
- Pressuring their partner to engage in unprotected sexual actives; and,
- Forcing pregnancy.

Victim-survivors must continue to have access to reproductive healthcare where they can make informed decisions with a trusted healthcare provider about which reproductive measures will assist with their safety planning, health, and overall family planning goals. No individual, including victim-survivors of power-based violence, should be without options and resources to decide when, where, and with whom they have a child. Even more, lawmakers should not be able to dictate which health care is available for which demographics and communities, so we must establish these permanent protections.

Access to reproductive healthcare is violence prevention, and NCEDSV urges the passage of SJR7.

Thank you for your consideration.

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