

March 15, 2017

Chair Greenlick, Co-Chairs and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Urban League of Portland, I respectfully request your support for the Reproductive Health Equity Act (HB 3391). The Urban League supports HB 3391 because we must implement policies that prioritize reproductive planning and choice.

The Reproductive Health Equity Act establishes comprehensive coverage for the full spectrum of reproductive health services — including family planning, abortion and postpartum care — for all Oregonians, regardless of income, citizenship status, gender identity or type of insurance. Restrictions on reproductive health care can have profoundly harmful effects on public health, particularly for those who already face significant barriers to receiving high-quality care.

Reproductive health care and abortion access is a human right that should be part of the spectrum of appropriate health care services for all women. The amount of income and the type of health insurance coverage can determine a woman's reproductive choices. Additionally, many women have coverage that ends immediately after labor and delivery, leaving them without care during the postpartum period, a pivotal time for both mom and baby.

But as a result of limited financial resources, many low-income women and women of color find reproductive health care to be out of reach. To ensure healthy babies and health mothers, women must have meaningful choices. Reproductive health care becomes truly equitable when a broad definition of reproductive health issues is encompassed for full access.

The Urban League of Portland supports HB 3391 because we know that all Oregonians need access to full reproductive health coverage for all families to thrive, for a stronger economy and for a healthier state. I hope that you will join us in support of the Reproductive Health Equity Act.

Sincerely,

Amira Streeter
Policy and Advocacy Director