

## EACH Woman Act Shabbat Discussion Guide

Shabbat can be a great time to delve into meaningful conversation with family and friends. Consider grabbing some *challah* and setting aside some time to discuss reproductive justice — and specifically, the EACH Woman Act. See below for helpful background information, and turn the page for discussion questions and text studies drawn from Genesis.

Learn more about NCJW's reproductive justice initiative at [ncjw.org/reproductivejustice](http://ncjw.org/reproductivejustice).

### BACKGROUND

#### What is the EACH Woman Act?

The Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance (EACH Woman) Act, HR 2972, is bold legislation that would lift the federal Hyde Amendment ban on abortion coverage. **It would ensure that every woman who receives health care or coverage through the federal government has coverage for abortion services.** It would also prohibit political interference with decisions by private health insurance companies to offer abortion coverage.

#### Why do we need the EACH Woman Act?

**The EACH Woman Act is essential to safeguard every woman's health, safety, economic security, and moral and bodily autonomy.**

A federal policy known as the Hyde Amendment (Hyde) denies abortion coverage to individuals and families enrolled in federal health plans or programs, except in cases of rape, incest, and when a pregnant woman's life is at risk. Congress has passed Hyde as part of federal appropriations legislation every year since 1976. Hyde makes abortion inaccessible for many, including Medicaid, Medicare, Children's Health Insurance Program enrollees; federal employees and their

dependents; Peace Corps volunteers; Native Americans; women in federal prisons and detention centers, including immigration detention centers; military personnel, veterans and their families; and low-income women in the District of Columbia.

#### How does the EACH Woman Act advance reproductive justice?

Reproductive justice means that each person should have the power to make their own informed decisions about their body, sexuality, and future regardless of race, income, sexual orientation, immigration status, or any other factor. The Hyde Amendment is a reproductive justice issue. It relies on existing social inequalities to restrict abortion access, intentionally targeting marginalized and poor communities. Studies show that Hyde forces one in four poor women seeking abortion to carry an unwanted pregnancy to term, with far-reaching economic consequences.

**The EACH Woman Act would lift Hyde, taking a critical step toward reproductive justice!**

For more information, contact Leanne Gale, NCJW Grassroots Associate, at [leanne@ncjwdc.org](mailto:leanne@ncjwdc.org).

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do your Jewish and/or faith identity inform your perspective on abortion access?
2. What issues does the Hyde Amendment raise for the Jewish community in particular?
3. What is the role of the Jewish community in supporting the reproductive justice movement and/or promoting legislative solutions like the EACH Woman Act?
4. How might we raise awareness about the Hyde Amendment and the EACH Woman Act in our local Jewish community? In Jewish communities across the country?

## CONNECTING TO THE TORAH PORTION: GENESIS

### The Creation of Humankind: Genesis 1, 27-31

*“And God created man in God’s own image, in the image of God, God created him; male and female God created them. And God blessed them...And it was so. And God saw everything that God had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.”*

1. The text states that God created humankind in God’s image. How do you interpret this?
2. What does this text imply about the dignity or value of human beings?
3. How might this text inform your approach to social justice and reproductive justice?
4. How might this text frame a Jewish approach to the EACH Woman Act?

### The Slaying of Abel: Genesis 4, 8-10

*And Cain spoke unto Abel his brother. And it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him. And God said unto Cain: ‘Where is Abel thy brother?’ And he said: ‘I know not; am I my brother’s keeper?’ And God said: ‘What hast thou done? The voice of thy brother’s blood cries out to Me from the ground.’”*

1. To what extent are you your “sister’s keeper”?
2. The Hyde Amendment impacts the most vulnerable in our communities. In the context of Hyde, what meaning do you draw from God’s statement in this passage?
3. What are some structural barriers to our solidarity with others? How are we complicit, even if unwillingly, in denying some women moral agency, access to healthcare, and financial security?
4. How might this text frame a Jewish approach to the EACH Woman Act?

For more information, contact Leanne Gale, NCJW Grassroots Associate, at [leanne@ncjwdc.org](mailto:leanne@ncjwdc.org).