

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Legislators File Bill to Reduce Barriers to Abortion Access



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### Legislators File Bill to Reduce Barriers to Abortion Access

**Raleigh, N.C.** - On Wednesday, March 22nd, **Senator Natasha Marcus** (SD 41), **Representative Julie von Haefen** (HD 36), **Dr. Beverly Gray**, **Dr. Jonas Swartz**, **Alissa Ellis** from the Carolina Abortion Fund, and **Iliana Santillan-Carrillo** from El Pueblo held a press conference to discuss the introduction of The Reduce Barriers to Gain Access to Abortion (RBG) Act ([SB353/HB439](#)).

**Sen. Marcus** addressed the main provisions of the bill, stating, "The RBG Act removes the big government regulations that have been restricting access to abortion care in our state and treats abortion like all other medical care. It treats pregnancy like the medical condition that it is and respects pregnant people to make the best decisions for themselves, without government interference."

**Rep. von Haefen** highlighted the importance of accessible healthcare, saying, "As North Carolinians, we should be focused on making health care more accessible, not creating medically unnecessary barriers for patients. When people can make decisions about whether and when to become a parent, they have a better shot at thriving in the life they choose for themselves. The freedom to fully control our bodies, lives, and futures is vital to all of us – and the RBG Act would help us take one step further to making that vision a reality."

**Dr. Gray** and **Dr. Swartz** spoke about how abortion barriers negatively impact patient care in North Carolina, saying "The web of abortion restrictions in North Carolina interferes in patients' decisions about how and when to become a parent and ultimately endangers their health and well-being. I am so grateful to these lawmakers for standing up for the patients of North Carolina. These arbitrary regulations have absolutely no business interfering in my patients' care. They serve no medical purpose. The RBG Act centers the needs of patients and should be the law in North Carolina."

**Alissa Ellis** spoke about how the *Dobbs* decision and 20-week ban has affected the Carolina Abortion Fund, saying "Since the implementation of draconian restrictions to abortion in neighboring states, CAF has received an influx of callers seeking care in North Carolina. Meanwhile the barriers here in North Carolina have made accessing abortion even more challenging for our callers. We are helping coordinate more support for callers navigating unnecessary barriers to care and helping to coordinate their travel to other states as the 20-week ban has impacted some callers."

"When I was nineteen, I had an abortion. There was so much stress in this chapter of my life. I was on birth control, but amidst all the stress, I missed a few pills, missed a period, and got pregnant," said **Iliana Santillan-Carrillo**, sharing her personal abortion story. "Every person deserves access to quality, affordable reproductive healthcare. I'm calling on our legislators to do what's right and pass the RBG Act."

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