

targeted many of the Act's tax provisions to limit women's access to abortion coverage.

- **Constant Legislative Attacks.** Members of Congress have attempted to roll back reproductive rights. One example is mandating parental consent for minors receiving reproductive health services.
- **Personhood Initiatives.** Anti-choice activists have attempted to elevate the status of a fetus under federal law, undermining women's right to choose. Personhood initiatives will be on several state ballots in 2014.
- **Court Challenges.** Anti-choice advocates are actively seeking cases to send to the Supreme Court to weaken *Roe v. Wade*.

### Opportunities to Improve Reproductive Health

There are several policies that Congress could enact to improve women's health and reproductive rights:

- **Improve Public Funding for Reproductive Health.** Increased Title X funding will improve women's access to basic health care and reproductive health care services.
- **Invest in Medically-Accurate, Age-Appropriate Comprehensive Sex**

**Education.** Programs must include information about both abstinence and the full range of contraception.

- **Support International Family Planning.** Federal funding for comprehensive international family planning programs benefit millions of women worldwide.
- **Ensure Access to Contraception and Emergency Contraception.** In many states, pharmacists can refuse to fill contraception prescriptions if they have a religious or moral objection.<sup>7</sup>

### Additional Resources

*Fact Sheets.*

The Guttmacher Institute  
[www.guttmacher.org/sections/by-type.php?type=sheets](http://www.guttmacher.org/sections/by-type.php?type=sheets)

*Women and the Affordable Care Act.*

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
[www.healthcare.gov/law/information-for-you/women.html](http://www.healthcare.gov/law/information-for-you/women.html)

*State Profiles.*

Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States  
[www.siecus.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.ViewPage&PageID=1369](http://www.siecus.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=Page.ViewPage&PageID=1369)

*AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. Since 1881, AAUW has been one of the nation's leading voices promoting education and equity for women and girls. AAUW has a nationwide network of more than 170,000 members and supporters across the United States, as well as 1,000 local branches and 800 college and university partners.*

<sup>1</sup> The Guttmacher Institute. (December 2013). *Facts on Unintended Pregnancy in the United States*. Retrieved January 23, 2014, from [www.guttmacher.org/pubs/FB-Unintended-Pregnancy-US.html](http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/FB-Unintended-Pregnancy-US.html)

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (August 1, 2011). *Affordable Care Act Ensures Women Receive Preventive Services at No Additional Cost*. Retrieved August 15, 2011, from [www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/08/20110801b.html](http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/08/20110801b.html)

<sup>4</sup> *The Daily Beast*. (June 30, 2014). *After Hobby Lobby, These 82 Corporations Could Drop Birth Control Coverage*. Retrieved August 13, 2014, from [www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2014/06/30/after-hobby-lobby-these-77-corporations-will-drop-birth-control-coverage.html?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_campaign=cheatsheet\\_morning&cid=newsletter\\_email\\_cheatsheet\\_morning&utm\\_term=Cheat](http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2014/06/30/after-hobby-lobby-these-77-corporations-will-drop-birth-control-coverage.html?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=cheatsheet_morning&cid=newsletter_email_cheatsheet_morning&utm_term=Cheat)

<sup>5</sup> *The Hill*. (August 1, 2014). *Despite victories, obstacles to emergency contraception still exist*. Retrieved August 13, 2014, from <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/healthcare/214070-despite-victories-obstacles-to-emergency-contraception-still>

<sup>6</sup> *The Federal Register*. (2009). *Department of Health and Human Services: Rescission of the Regulation Entitled "Ensuring that Department of Health and Human Services Funds Do Not Support Coercive or Discriminatory Policies or Practices in Violation of Federal Law"; Proposal*. Retrieved February 7, 2011, from [edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-5067.pdf](http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-5067.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> National Women's Law Center. (April 24, 2012). *Pharmacy Refusals: State Laws, Regulations, and Policies*. Retrieved December 27, 2012, from [www.nwlc.org/resource/pharmacy-refusals-state-laws-regulations-and-policies](http://www.nwlc.org/resource/pharmacy-refusals-state-laws-regulations-and-policies)