

## ACCESS TO FAMILY PLANNING AND ABORTION SERVICES

### *Position Statement*

NASW, Iowa Chapter, affirms the right of every individual, within the context of her own value system, to have access to family planning and abortion services. The NASW position is based on the ethical principles of self-determination, human rights, and social justice.

### *Recommendations*

NASW, Iowa Chapter, recommends the following provisions in order to support the right of every individual to have access to family planning and abortion services.

#### *Family Planning*

- The Legislature should provide funding to the Iowa Department of Public Health to increase public information about the availability of family planning services.
- The Legislature should not prohibit funding for family planning services from going to agencies that also provide abortion services.
- The Legislature should direct the Iowa Department of Human Services to submit a state plan amendment to add family planning services to the State Medicaid Plan, as provided for in the Affordable Care Act.
- The Legislature should continue to allocate TANF funding for evidence-based adolescent pregnancy prevention services.

#### *Abortion Services*

- The Legislature should remove the requirement that the Governor approve Medicaid payment for an abortion.
- No further restrictions or requirements should be placed by the Legislature or Executive Branch on a woman's right to abortion services. The nature of the reproductive health services that a client receives should be a matter of client self-determination in consultation with the qualified health care provider furnishing them.
- Rules for the use of telemedicine in the provision of abortion services should not be "carved out" from general rules on telemedicine. The Legislature should direct the Iowa Board of Medicine to rescind the administrative rules in 653 – 13.10 that specifically deal with the use of telemedicine in the provision of abortion services. The use of telemedicine in the provision of abortion services should be governed by the broader administrative rules on telemedicine that the Board has proposed in 653 – 13.11.
- The Legislature should amend Iowa Code Chapter 146 to require that any individual or hospital that chooses not to provide abortion services has a responsibility to disclose the limited scope of their services and to assist clients in obtaining comprehensive services elsewhere.
- The Legislature should not initiate a statewide referendum on a "personhood" constitutional amendment.

The full version of this statement with references can be found at <https://nasw-heartland.site-ym.com/?183>