

# POLICY PLATFORM

## REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

### PROGRESSIVE VALUE

**Comprehensive reproductive health care is a fundamental right rooted in self-determination, ensuring that decisions about one's health and future are made by the individual and their medical team, free from external limitations.**

#### ROOTED IN JUDAISM

In Judaism, "nefesh" signifies life and breath, highlighting their deep connection. Pikuach nefesh, the commandment to save a life, is the highest obligation and extends beyond physical survival to include the protection of one's spirit and well-being. This principle teaches that preserving life encompasses all aspects of health, including mental and emotional well-being. When abortion or birth control is necessary to safeguard a person's health, including mental health, we must act to preserve their life. A fetus holds the potential for life but does not yet have nefesh—it does not yet breathe. Judaism compels us to prioritize the living and ensure care for all, transcending boundaries of poverty and geography.

#### REFLECTED IN ZIONISM

Zionism is rooted in Jewish self-determination and in liberation. We cannot deny the need for self-determination in any form. No one should have their personal decision making over their health denied by another person. To support self-determination means we acknowledge that only a pregnant person can tell us when their health is endangered by pregnancy or the possibility of parenthood. Self-determination includes being the final arbiter over when one's nefesh, when one's life, is in danger. Liberation includes the control over one's own future that comes with planning when and how to create a family.

### POSITION STATEMENTS

- **Women and other pregnant people should always have the right to decide if an abortion protects their life and health, including physical, mental, and emotional health. We will support protections of this right.**
- **Laws which seek to limit abortion, access to birth control, or other forms of reproductive health, based on a person's economic status, healthcare provider, or geographic location, limit self-determination and we will oppose them.**
- **Laws which seek to criminalize the attempt to assist someone in saving their own nefesh, their life, or which prevent doctors from providing sought after care, through accessing an abortion are at odds with Jewish and Zionist values and we will oppose them.**
- **We will oppose laws which seek to limit access to family planning, including those which create legal hurdles and complications to accessing IVF, IUI, and sperm and egg donations.**
- **We support access to comprehensive healthcare which includes insurance coverage and access to HIV and STD prevention and HIV care.**