



## **Interfaith Alliance Statement of Policy: Reproductive Freedom**

*Adopted by the Interfaith Alliance Foundation Board of Directors on September 17, 2021*

For nearly three decades Interfaith Alliance has advocated for religious freedom by championing individual rights, promoting policies that protect both religion and democracy, and uniting diverse voices to challenge extremism. In the United States, the Declaration of Independence and Constitution recognize the inherent dignity of individuals and affirm a sphere of personal privacy that cannot be infringed by the government. We rely on policy makers to enact laws that are consistent these fundamental dictates of individual liberty and we count on judges to strike down laws that violate such principles. Our democratic tradition, and specifically the religious freedom guarantees enshrined in the Constitution, recognizes the harms of legislating based on an individual or group's personal religious beliefs.

Interfaith Alliance recognizes that various faith traditions approach questions of healthcare, including reproductive care, differently. Laws or practices that require or coerce individuals to submit to courses of reproductive treatment, such as forced sterilization, are not only an affront to individual liberty but also to an individual's freedom of conscience as long recognized in our democracy. So too are laws that restrict access through banning or imposing scientifically and medically unnecessary restrictions on care. Laws that criminalize or otherwise penalize medical professionals providing quality reproductive care, their patients, or friends and supporters violate fundamental principles of individual liberty, freedom of conscience, and often seek to impose one religious viewpoint on all. These restrictions also have a disproportionate impact on marginalized communities, such as communities of color, adolescents, and those in underserved geographic regions.

Interfaith Alliance opposes laws and policies that violate the fundamental freedoms guaranteed to individuals in the U.S. Constitution and in our democratic tradition, including those that restrict the freedom to control the course of one's reproductive healthcare. We oppose the intervention of legislative bodies into medical decision-making and an individual's freedom of conscience in deciding the appropriate course of medical treatment for their particular circumstances. We also oppose the harassment of all people, including reproductive health care providers, those seeking care, faith advisors, and those who advocate for access to comprehensive reproductive healthcare.