

Dear Rep. Julie Rogers:

The Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network (MUUSJN) and its Interfaith Reproductive Justice Coalition offers its support for the Michigan Reproductive Health Act (RHA). MUUSJN's coalition, which includes representatives several faith groups with congregations throughout Michigan, has met monthly for over eight years. It urges the House Committee on Health Policy to adopt all 11 of the bills in the RHA package. Our Coalition believes strongly that all women should be treated with respect and dignity. Their freedom to choose an abortion should not be limited by their income or by policies that reduce access to health care. Here are examples how the RHA will take down barriers to women's choice:

- State funded Medicaid would be allowed to cover all pregnancy related health care, including abortions;
- Private health insurance companies would be allowed to offer abortion coverage as part of their standard health insurance packages;
- It would protect women from being treated as criminals for having a miscarriage or a still birth;
- It would eliminate a mandatory 24-hour waiting period before any abortion can performed;
- It would end medically unnecessary abortion clinic requirements that force clinics to shut down, greatly reducing a access to health care for people in northern Michigan.

In short, MUUSJN and its Interfaith Reproductive Justice Coalition believe that passage of the Reproductive Health Act will help assure Michigan women and their families have fair and affordable access to abortion, something now included in the Michigan Constitution.

Sincerely,

Randy Block, MSW, Director (he, him, his)
Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network