



CONTACT: Susy Chávez, Director of Communications  
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice  
Email: [susy@clrj.org](mailto:susy@clrj.org) O: 213.270.5258 C: 213.292.0970

## FOR IMMEDIATELY RELEASE

### In Hostile National Landscape, California Pushes Through Two Pro-Women, Pro-Reproductive Justice Bills

Sacramento, California (June 1, 2017) --- Yesterday the California Assembly approved two bills - AB 569, Gonzalez Fletcher, and AB 557, Rubio - that safeguard reproductive decisions, strengthen labor protections, and protect victims and survivors of intimate partner violence who are current CalWORKs recipients. Both bills highlight California's leadership to uphold a reproductive justice agenda in the face of an increasingly accelerated [hostile national landscape](#) where the current administration continues to take aim at eroding the rights and well-being of women, the LGBTQ community, and marginalized communities, including Latinas/x, throughout the country.

Both bills passed the California Assembly yesterday - AB 569- Gonzalez Fletcher, and AB 557- Rubio - protect bodily autonomy, economic security, and freedom to live free of violence regardless of economic status.

"We are proud to be working on two bills that help protect some of the most vulnerable in our communities. From our own work, we know that Latinas are especially affected by continued economic insecurity. AB 569 will help guarantee job security for women making private reproductive health care decisions that affect them and their families. Additionally, AB 557 would help CalWORKs clients, including Latinas, more easily access domestic violence waivers that can be the difference between life and death for many Latinas and their children," said Laura Jimenez, Executive Director, California Latinas for Reproductive Justice.

"Reproductive Justice is about centering people who navigate layers of barriers to access care and safety in our movement. AB 569 and AB 557 help support people, especially low-income women of color, in getting the economic support and protection they need to move beyond survival," said Myra Durán, Senior Policy Manager, California Latinas for Reproductive Justice. "Survival is part of the everyday reality for low-income women of color, and I am happy that the California Assembly is on the right track in recognizing that we must do more to support all of our families in California."

[AB 557 \(Rubio\)](#), will improve options for poor parents seeking to escape abuse for them and their children by making sure that the domestic violence waivers are more readily available to families who need them. The ability to live free of both intimate and structural violence is a matter of reproductive justice and flies in the face of [recently proposed cuts in the Federal budget to eliminate programs aimed at helping survivors of interpersonal violence](#).



[AB 569, The Reproductive Health Non-discrimination Act \(Gonzalez Fletcher\)](#), would ensure that employees and their families can make their own health decisions, including whether, when, and how to start a family and what the size of their family should be, without fear of losing their jobs or facing retribution from their employers because of private, non-work related decisions. The passage of AB 569 means that we are one step closer ensuring that Latinas' economic security and equity is not contingent on the reproductive health choices they make for themselves and their families. With current attacks on women's health care options including the administration's [plan to roll back the Affordable Care Act's \(ACA\) birth control benefit](#), which would cause hundreds of thousands of women to lose access to no-cost birth control coverage by giving employers the choice to include or exclude birth control from their health care plans.

The proposed federal agenda around women's health and well-being is alarming. The most recent proposed regulation gives businesses, organizations, schools, and health plan providers free reign to discriminate and burden women. With AB 569 and AB 557, California has the opportunity to take a stand against a growing national anti-choice agenda, protect women's privacy and economic security, as well as to show we stand with the most vulnerable in our communities.

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#### **About California Latinas for Reproductive Justice (CLRJ)**

CLRJ is a statewide organization committed to honoring the experiences of Latinas to uphold our dignity, our bodies, sexuality, and families. We build Latinas' power and cultivate leadership through community education, policy advocacy, and community informed research to achieve Reproductive Justice. Learn more about California Latinas for Reproductive Justice at [www.californialatinas.org](http://www.californialatinas.org)

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