

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8452

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants to eligible entities to pay for travel-related expenses and logistical support for individuals with respect to accessing abortion services, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 20, 2022

Ms. STRICKLAND (for herself, Mrs. FLETCHER, and Ms. BUSH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants to eligible entities to pay for travel-related expenses and logistical support for individuals with respect to accessing abortion services, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Reproductive Health  
5 Travel Fund Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds as follows:

1           (1) On June 24, 2022, in its decision in *Dobbs*  
2           *v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, the Su-  
3           preme Court overruled *Roe v. Wade*, reversing dec-  
4           ades of precedent recognizing the constitutional  
5           right to terminate a pregnancy.

6           (2) The abortion access landscape was already  
7           strained. This decision will decimate access for mil-  
8           lions of people in the United States. Roughly half of  
9           States are predicted to ban or severely restrict abor-  
10          tion in the coming months.

11          (3) The implications of this decision will fall  
12          hardest on people who already face barriers to  
13          health care access, particularly Black people, Indige-  
14          nous people, and other people of color, people with  
15          disabilities, people in rural areas, young people, peo-  
16          ple with documentation barriers, and those having  
17          difficulty making ends meet.

18          (4) People have always had abortions and al-  
19          ways will, even in the face of legal, financial, and  
20          logistical barriers, or criminalization. While some  
21          will self-manage their abortions, and have the option  
22          of using pills that are medically safe and effective,  
23          many others are traveling hundreds of miles out of  
24          State, or forced to carry pregnancies to term.

1           (5) Abortion funds and practical support funds  
2           are community-based organizations that support  
3           people in overcoming financial and logistical barriers  
4           to abortion care.

5           (6) Funds work together to remove financial  
6           and logistical barriers to abortion access and have  
7           been doing this work for years. Some of these bar-  
8           riers are, but are not limited to, transportation,  
9           food, lodging, childcare, translation, and doula serv-  
10          ices.

11          (7) Many funds are led by people who have had  
12          abortions themselves, including a growing base of  
13          Black and Brown leaders who have themselves faced  
14          abortion obstacles and understand the complex cir-  
15          cumstances callers may face.

16          (8) Abortion funds have a history of being  
17          underresourced and rely mostly on volunteer time  
18          and energy to support communities.

19          (9) Abortion and practical support funds hold  
20          some of the closest ties to people who are having  
21          abortions and have the first-hand experience, up-to-  
22          date and on-the-ground knowledge, and the regional  
23          and national connections needed to support abortion  
24          seekers financially, emotionally, or logistically.

1           (10) Clinics in States where abortion is legal  
2           and more accessible are receiving an influx of people  
3           seeking abortions. Provider shortages plus this rapid  
4           increase in patients will cause longer waits for ap-  
5           pointments.

6           (11) When people are not able to access an  
7           abortion when they need it, they are often pushed  
8           much further into pregnancy. This increases costs  
9           exponentially. For many, the increased financial bur-  
10          den will push abortion care completely out of reach.

11          (12) A rapidly changing access landscape, as  
12          bans are implemented and challenged, means that  
13          the window to access care in certain States may be  
14          limited. People who are put in a position where they  
15          must postpone their care due to financial or other  
16          constraints may face appointment cancellations due  
17          to overnight changes in legality.

18          (13) Funds often work with each other if they  
19          cannot fully assist a caller, or if a caller is traveling  
20          across regions. A national network of almost 100  
21          abortion and practical support funds has dem-  
22          onstrated these funds are uniquely positioned to lead  
23          in this moment and need support.

1 **SEC. 3. GRANTS TO PAY FOR TRAVEL EXPENSES AND**  
2 **LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS AC-**  
3 **CESSING ABORTION SERVICES.**

4 Part D of title III of the Public Health Service Act  
5 (42 U.S.C. 254b et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
6 the following:

7 **“Subpart XIII—Accessing Abortion Services**  
8 **“SEC. 340J. GRANTS TO PAY FOR TRAVEL EXPENSES AND**  
9 **LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS AC-**  
10 **CESSING ABORTION SERVICES.**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants  
12 to eligible entities to pay for travel-related expenses and  
13 logistical support for individuals with respect to accessing  
14 abortion services.

15 “(b) TIMING.—Beginning not later than 30 days  
16 after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary  
17 shall solicit applications for grants under this section.

18 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—

19 “(1) PERMISSIBLE USES.—An eligible entity re-  
20 ceiving a grant under this section shall use the grant  
21 for travel-related expenses and logistical support for  
22 individuals with respect to accessing abortion serv-  
23 ices, which may include any of the following ex-  
24 penses and support:

25 “(A) Round trip travel to the location  
26 where the abortion services are provided.

1 “(B) Lodging.

2 “(C) Meals.

3 “(D) Childcare.

4 “(E) Translation services.

5 “(F) Doula care.

6 “(G) Patient education and information  
7 services.

8 “(2) ORGANIZATIONAL COSTS.—An eligible en-  
9 tity receiving a grant under this section may use up  
10 to, but not more than, 15 percent of the grant funds  
11 to cover organizational costs such as—

12 “(A) community outreach efforts;

13 “(B) physical infrastructure construction  
14 and maintenance;

15 “(C) website development and mainte-  
16 nance; and

17 “(D) increasing staff capacity and train-  
18 ing.

19 “(3) IMPERMISSIBLE USES.—An eligible entity  
20 receiving a grant under this section shall not use the  
21 grant for costs of an abortion procedure.

22 “(d) APPLICATIONS.—To seek a grant under this sec-  
23 tion, an eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary an  
24 application in such form, at such time, and containing  
25 such information as the Secretary determines appropriate.

1       “(e) PRIORITY.—In selecting the recipients of grants  
2 under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligi-  
3 ble entities that—

4               “(1) serve people who live in a jurisdiction that  
5 has banned or severely restricted access to abortion;

6               “(2) serve people who travel to a jurisdiction  
7 other than the one where they live to be provided  
8 abortion services; or

9               “(3) have a program in operation, or submit as  
10 part of the application required under subsection (d)  
11 a plan to establish and operate a program, to help  
12 patients access abortion services.

13       “(f) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

14               “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
15 after the date of enactment of this section, and an-  
16 nually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the  
17 Congress a report on the program under this sec-  
18 tion.

19               “(2) CONFIDENTIALITY.—The reports under  
20 paragraph (1) shall not include any individually  
21 identifiable information.

22       “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23               “(1) The term ‘eligible entity’—

24                       “(A) means a nonprofit organization, or a  
25 community-based organization, that assists in-

1 individuals seeking an abortion through pro-  
2 grams, services, or activities that are unbiased  
3 and medically and factually accurate; and

4 “(B) excludes any entity that discourages  
5 individuals from seeking an abortion.

6 “(2) The term ‘nonprofit organization’ means  
7 an organization that—

8 “(A) is described in subsection (c)(3) of  
9 section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of  
10 1986; and

11 “(B) is, under subsection (a) of such sec-  
12 tion, exempt from taxation.

13 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To  
14 carry out this section, there is authorized to be appro-  
15 priated \$300,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023  
16 through 2027.”.

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