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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. STRICKLAND introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

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”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds as follows:

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

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

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

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