



# Advocacy Update

Sent July 3, 2013

## **Reproductive Rights in the House of Representatives**

Last week, the House of Representatives passed the “Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act” ([click here](#) to see how your Representative voted). This bill is the most restrictive anti-choice legislation to pass a national governmental body in many, many years – it bans abortion after only the 20<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy, and contains limited rape and incest exceptions. As Barbara Weinstein, Director of the URJ’s Commission on Social Action, noted in a [press statement](#): “We know that [this] vote was symbolic, since the Senate will not take up the bill and the President has said he would veto it.... Yet the symbolism of the bill’s House passage is indeed important, demonstrating the unfortunate reality that women’s reproductive rights remain at risk.”

WRJ has historically been a strong advocate for women’s health, renewing its commitment to reproductive rights in a [2011 Board of Directors Statement](#). In this statement, the Board called on its WRJ affiliates to “educate their members about the threats to women’s health that are being proposed.” It is essential that we continue to spread information about attacks to women’s health throughout our networks. Mention it in your sisterhood newsletter, hold an event with a local Planned Parenthood chapter, and/or forward this message along to some colleagues or friends!

## **Immigration Bill Passes the Senate**

Last week, we wrote about the vote on the Senate’s comprehensive immigration reform bill that was upcoming. The vote did indeed take place last week, and the bill passed the Senate with a sweeping 68-32 vote! As we mentioned, the Senate’s bill reflects many of [WRJ’s legislative priorities](#) on immigration reform, including a path to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented immigrants here today, a renewed commitment to clearing systemic backlogs, a plan for processing future flow of immigrants, and a reasonable approach to enforcement.

The Reform Movement [issued a statement](#) about the bill’s passage, noting that “Today’s passage of a comprehensive immigration reform bill by the United States Senate is an historic step on our journey toward justice for all aspiring Americans.... With today’s Senate passage, our attention now turns to the House and ensuring that America’s promise of ‘liberty and justice for all’ is fully realized. As we rejoice in today’s victory, we call upon the House of Representatives to swiftly adopt legislation that contains these key protections of our country’s vulnerable populations, and that ensures America’s security and prosperity for future generations.”

[Click here](#) to tell your Representative that you support the introduction and passage of immigration reform that does justice to our American and Reform Jewish values.