Pittsburgh Freethought Community
Statement on Women’s History Month and
International Women’s Day
March 2021

Pittsburgh Freethought Community (PFC) welcomes the celebration of Women’s History Month in March and International Women’s Day on March 8. PFC has always honored the truth that women and girls are human beings and that women’s rights are human rights.

To advocate for women’s full political and socioeconomic equality and participation, PFC urges its 2900+ stakeholders and freethinkers everywhere to contact their legislators to SUPPORT the following FEDERAL legislation.

- **S. 758/H.R. 1692**: The Ensuring Equal Access to Abortion Coverage for Every Woman Act (EACH Woman Act.) This Act would ensure that women who receive medical care or insurance through the federal government will be covered for all pregnancy-related expenses, including abortion. It would also prohibit federal, state, and local political interference with the decisions of private medical insurers to cover all pregnancy-related care, including abortion.
- **H.R. 671**: The Global Health, Empowerment, and Rights Act (Global HER Act.) This Act would permanently repeal the global gag rule and prevent future US presidents from reissuing it.
- **H.R. 2975/S. 1645**: The Women’s Health Protection Act (WHPA.) This Act would protect women’s right to access abortion care by creating a safeguard against bans and medically unnecessary restrictions that apply to no similar medical care.
- **H.R. 6142**: The Black Maternal Health Act (Momnibus Act.) This Act would direct the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and other agencies to address maternal health outcomes among minority populations, including social determinants of health and maternal mental and behavioral health.
- **H.R. 1585/S.B. 119**: Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA.) This Act would extend the original VAWA to include Internet/technological abuse, female genital mutilation, and enhance legal protections against domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking for all women living in the US, including Tribal/Indigenous/Native Americans.
- The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA Fix.) VOCA is the largest source of federal funding for domestic and sexual violence services in the country and has faced dangerous cuts over
the last few years and is facing even more catastrophic cuts now. VOCA Fix would restore survivors’ services funding and ensure that survivors in crisis have the help they need.

- **H.B. 5**: The Equality Act. This Act would prohibit discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in areas including public accommodations and facilities, education, federal funding, employment, housing, credit, and the jury system. Specifically, the Act would define and include sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity among the prohibited categories of discrimination or segregation.

- **H.B. 5272**: The Do No Harm Act. This Act would make the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 (RFRA) inapplicable to federal laws (or implementations of laws) that protect against discrimination or the promotion of equal opportunity. Religious organizations would no longer be exempt from civil rights laws.

- **H.J. Res. 17/ S.J. Res. 1**: The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is the proposed 28th Amendment to the United States Constitution that would guarantee equal legal rights for all American citizens regardless of sex. It would end the legal distinctions between women and men in terms of divorce, property, employment, and many other areas.

PFC urges everyone to contact their **Pennsylvania** legislators to **OPPOSE** the following bills:

- **H.B. 118**: The Final Disposition of Fetal Remains Act. This “fetal burial” bill would mandate this issuance of publicly-available death certificates for all pregnancy losses regardless of the cause and burial or cremation for fetal remains. The woman would be responsible for all costs incurred.

- **S.B. 21**: In Abortion, Further Providing for Definitions and for Medical Consultation and Judgment Act. This bill would ban abortion for a prenatal suspicion or diagnosis of Down syndrome and/or sex selection. This bill is simply another way to restrict abortion.

PFC proudly and unequivocally promotes science, reason, and humanist values in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Organized patriarchal religion is the major oppressor of women and girls and is the motive underlying all opposition to reproductive rights. There are no scientific or rational (in other words, non-religious) arguments against women’s full humanity. Humanist values encompass the fundamental dignity, equality, and unity of all humanity. For these reasons PFC not only honors Women’s History Month and International Women’s Day but also women’s full humanity at all times.