

Hon. Joanne Rodríguez Veve

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(Plaats, datum)

Honorable Rodríguez Veve,

I am writing to voice my concern about the recently published Bill #693, which would restrict access to abortion after 22 weeks or when a doctor determines that the foetus is viable. The only exception is when the pregnant persons' life is in danger. Currently in Puerto Rico, there are few legal restrictions on access to abortion, which can take place at any stage in the pregnancy when carried out by a doctor to conserve the life or the health, including mental health, of the pregnant person. Restrictions on access to abortion would constitute a retrogression in rights and a barrier to accessing public health services, which risks having a disproportionate impact on pregnant people in serious situations - such as those who need abortions for medical reasons to safeguard their health, or who have experienced sexual violence and who were unable to access abortion earlier - as well as those who are already historically marginalized and for whom access to abortion may be more difficult, for example, due to lack of financial resources.

I strongly urge you to take a stand against any regression in the human rights protection of women, girls and all others who can become pregnant. A first step towards this is to ensure that any public hearings that take place regarding Bill #693 are objective, meaning that all interventions from a diversity of stakeholders are equally heard, and subject to meaningful human rights scrutiny.

Thank you for your attention. I am looking forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

(Naam, adres)