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Oppose Budget Amendments 4-5.04 2h (House), 4-5.04 5h (House), and 4-5.04 #1s (Senate) – Ensure Medicaid-eligible women have access to abortion

Budget Amendments 4-5.04 2h (House), 4-5.04 5h (House), and 4-5.04 #1s (Senate) repeal funding for Medicaid-eligible women who seek abortion after a physician certifies in writing that the fetus has an incapacitating physical or mental anomaly.

Health care decisions are best made by a woman and her medical provider. If B.A. 4-5.04 2h (House), 4-5.04 5h (House), and 4-5.04 #1s (Senate) are approved, Medicaid-eligible women in Virginia will have no option for a pregnancy in which the fetus has a physician certified incapacitating physical or mental anomaly. Whatever our personal opinion, we must ensure that each woman can make her own decisions about her pregnancy. It's not our place to decide for someone else whether they should or should not have an abortion. And it's certainly not the place of our elected officials. By holding back healthcare assistance funds from women who qualify for them, politicians are attempting to control women's healthcare decisions just because they disagree with some women's decisions. This is wrong – a woman's healthcare decisions must be left to her and her doctor.

Medicaid-eligible women in Virginia should not face limited reproductive healthcare options just because they are poor. We should not exclude certain people from access to care we know others get easily, and should use some of our health care assistance funds to cover abortion for qualified women. We must make sure it's not only people with expensive insurance who can access reproductive healthcare if they need to. We shouldn't make laws that result in poorer women having worse reproductive health care access compared to richer women. Women who are eligible for Medicaid should have access to the same medical services as any other women. It's the right, fair thing to do. It's time to ensure that women's reproductive healthcare decisions are not based on her ability to pay for treatment.

Though we can each have different personal feelings about abortion, it's not okay for some politicians to withhold health care assistance funds from women who qualify for them. We can use the resources our Commonwealth has to make sure that each woman is truly able to make a real decision about whether to have an abortion.