

PATRICK

HOPE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DELEGATE PATRICK HOPE INTRODUCES BILL TO PROTECT WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE

Richmond – Today, Delegate Patrick A. Hope (D-Arlington County) introduced legislation to protect women’s rights to make their own reproductive health care decisions.

HB2287 would prohibit employers from taking adverse actions against any employee based on their reproductive health care decisions, including the decision to use contraception, abortion, or in vitro fertilization (IVF).

Delegate Hope said, “In the wake of the Hobby Lobby decision, Republicans across the country are intent on standing in the way of women making their own medical decisions.” Delegate Hope added, “Your health care is none of your boss’s business and this bill says loud-and-clear that employers may not discriminate or take adverse actions against their female employees.”

Here’s what the advocates for women’s reproductive rights are saying:

"We support this legislation because reproductive freedom cannot be fully realized without meaningful access to birth control, and reproductive freedom is the cornerstone of women's equality and the foundation for building healthy families."

- Aisha Huertas Michel, ACLU of Virginia Women's Rights Project Director

"NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia is proud to stand with Delegate Hope in support of this commonsense bill. Regardless of how one feels about abortion, I think we can all agree that no woman should be fired from her job for using safe, common, FDA-approved birth control. Ninety-nine percent of women will use contraception at some point in their reproductive lives, whether for family planning or other medical reasons like treating endometriosis. Whether or not a woman uses birth control is not her bosses' business - it's as simple as that."

- Tarina Keene, Executive Director of NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia

“Delegate Hope’s bill guarantees Virginia employees the freedom and fundamental right to make personal reproductive health care decisions – including the decision to access contraception – without fear of reprisal from their employers. Employers do not belong in a woman’s personal medical decisions, and should not be able to discriminate because of their own personal beliefs. People should be judged at work by their performance, not based on their personal, private health care decisions.”

- Planned Parenthood Advocates of Virginia Executive Director Cianti Stewart-Reid

Patrick A. Hope is a Member of the Virginia General Assembly as the Delegate from the 47th District representing part of Arlington County. He serves on the House Health, Welfare, and Institutions, Courts of Justice, and Militia, Police and Public Safety Committees.

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