

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. RES. 1153

Condemning unwanted, unnecessary medical procedures on individuals without their full, informed consent.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2020

Ms. JAYAPAL (for herself, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. FRANKEL, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BASS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. CISNEROS, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COOPER, Mr. CORREA, Mr. CRIST, Mr. CROW, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEAN, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. DELBENE, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HECK, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KEATING, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KILMER, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE, Ms. MUCARSEL-POWELL, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. ROSE of New York, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. RUSH, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. SIRES, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SOTO, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VELA, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. WELCH, Ms. WILD, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. LARSON

of Connecticut, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. RYAN, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. TED LIEU of California, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. TRONE, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. DOGGETT, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. COX of California, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. TONKO, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. WATERS, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. DEUTCH, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. KIM, Mrs. LURIA, Mr. PAPPAS, and Ms. SLOTKIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## **RESOLUTION**

Condemning unwanted, unnecessary medical procedures on individuals without their full, informed consent.

Whereas there is a shameful history in the United States of Black, Indigenous, people of color, immigrants, poor people, and people with disabilities being subjected to medical procedures without their informed consent;

Whereas 32 States passed eugenic-sterilization laws, resulting in the sterilization of between 60,000 to 70,000 people beginning in the early 1900s;

Whereas 25 percent of Native American women of child-bearing age were sterilized over the course of 6 years after the passage of the Family Planning Services and Population Research Act of 1970;

Whereas incarcerated individuals have continued to face sterilization practices, including nearly 150 incarcerated women in California prisons sterilized between 2006 and 2010;

Whereas, on September 14, 2020, a coalition of organizations, including Project South, Georgia Detention Watch, Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights, and South Georgia Immigrant Support Network, filed a complaint to the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General expressing concerns about the Irwin County Detention Center in Ocilla, Georgia, including detained immigrant women receiving unnecessary hysterectomies and a lack of informed consent for gynecological procedures;

Whereas a growing number of women are coming forward to share stories of unwanted, unnecessary medical procedures, including full or partial hysterectomies and other procedures involving their reproductive organs, performed without their knowledge or consent;

Whereas, on September 16, 2020, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement nearly deported a woman who was formerly detained at Irwin County Detention Center who had one fallopian tube removed without her knowledge or consent;

Whereas, on September 18, 2020, 4 women came forward saying that they did not approve of the procedures they received;

Whereas an initial review of available medical records by independent gynecologists raises serious questions about whether patients detained at the Irwin County Detention Center provided informed consent and whether prevailing standards of care were adhered to in their care; and

Whereas these allegations indicate a failure by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to conduct rigorous over-

sight to protect the health and safety of people in its custody: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) condemns performing unwanted, unneces-  
3       sary medical procedures on individuals without their  
4       full, informed consent;

5               (2) recognizes that everyone deserves to control  
6       their own reproductive choices and make informed  
7       choices about their bodies;

8               (3) recognizes that further accountability, over-  
9       sight, and transparency is necessary to protect peo-  
10      ple in the custody of U.S. Immigration and Customs  
11      Enforcement; and

12              (4) calls on the Department of Homeland Secu-  
13      rity to—

14                      (A) pause the removal of any individual  
15                      who experienced any medical procedure at the  
16                      Irwin County Detention Center;

17                      (B) allow individuals who may have experi-  
18                      enced an unnecessary or nonconsensual proce-  
19                      dure to have immediate access to adequate,  
20                      safe, and consensual medical treatment or to  
21                      seek a second opinion from an independent  
22                      medical professional;

1           (C) immediately comply with all investiga-  
2           tions and records requests related to investiga-  
3           tions about the Irwin County Detention Center;

4           (D) ensure impacted individuals are able to  
5           freely participate in any investigation and share  
6           their stories without fear of reprisal; and

7           (E) hold all individuals involved in these  
8           incidents accountable and bring them to justice.

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