

United States House of Representatives

Committee on the Judiciary

Markup of HR 589

Statement of National Council of Jewish Women

June 10, 2025

National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) submits this statement in opposition to HR 589, the FACE Act Repeal Act of 2025.

NCJW writes to express our staunch opposition to any effort to repeal or undermine the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act ([18 U.S.C. § 248](#)), including the proposed FACE Act Repeal Act of 2025 ([HR 589](#)). Since its bipartisan passage in 1994, bolstered by NCJW's robust advocacy, the FACE Act has been a critical, highly effective public safety tool to guard access to both reproductive health care clinics and houses of worship, while at the same time protecting the freedom of speech guaranteed by the First Amendment of the US Constitution. Passing and protecting the FACE Act has been a priority for NCJW since the bill's inception, and we will continue to champion its full and active implementation.

Since our founding in 1893, NCJW has fought to advance equity and justice for women, children, and families. We work to affect lasting social change through the efforts of our 225,000 grassroots advocates and 48 local sections, combining education, direct service, and advocacy. We are compelled by our Jewish values to protect access to reproductive health care, which is permitted and at times required by our faith. We know that religious freedom is inextricably tied to our reproductive freedom; the denial or obstruction of clinic access directly interferes with the free exercise of our religious beliefs. Similarly, we recognize the importance of the FACE Act's

coverage for “any person lawfully exercising or seeking to exercise the First Amendment right of religious freedom at a place of religious worship.” This legislation powerfully serves both those seeking medical care and spiritual refuge; its protections must remain intact and enforceable.

Fundamentally, the FACE Act is a public safety law. The [context](#) in which the bill was originally enacted — following the devastating assassinations of reproductive health care providers and targeted attacks on clinics — necessitated common-sense legislation to ensure that those seeking care, serving as medical professionals, or participating in peaceful religious worship were sufficiently protected from harm. In the decades since, the FACE Act has successfully and [quantifiably](#) decreased and deterred violence, threats, intimidation, and obstruction. Despite the FACE Act’s proven efficacy and capacity to protect access to houses of worship, the threats it seeks to mitigate have not fully subsided. Mere days before this committee is scheduled to mark up the FACE Act Repeal Act of 2025, a California fertility clinic was deliberately [bombed](#) in an act of domestic terrorism. The FACE Act explicitly equips the Department of Justice with the prosecutorial power to respond accordingly. Further, at this moment when religiously-based hate crimes — and particularly, antisemitic hate crimes — are at an all time high according to the [2023 FBI Hate Crime Statistics report](#), the FACE Act is an essential public safety tool now more than ever.

NCJW urges this Committee to utilize its authority to its fullest extent to ensure that patients, providers, and peaceful worshippers alike can exercise their guaranteed freedoms with safety and dignity. The preservation of the FACE Act is essential to fulfilling that commitment and should be enforced to its full extent, rather than repealed. We urge members of this Committee to oppose the FACE Act Repeal Act of 2025.