

# ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 207

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 12, 2024

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman ANDREA KATZ**

**District 8 (Atlantic and Burlington)**

### **SYNOPSIS**

Urges Congress to call constitutional convention to consider reproductive health care rights.

### **CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1   **A JOINT RESOLUTION** urging Congress to convene to consider a  
2   constitutional amendment to protect certain reproductive health  
3   care rights.  
4  
5   **WHEREAS**, Following the United States Supreme Court’s 2022  
6   decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Org., which  
7   overturned Roe v. Wade and decisions concerning abortion and  
8   reproductive health rights have largely become the purview of the  
9   states and no longer a fundamental right of the individual; and  
10  **WHEREAS**, This decision created a disparity for individuals, based on  
11  where they lived, in accessing essential reproductive health  
12  services; and  
13  **WHEREAS**, A constitutional amendment providing citizens of the  
14  United States with fundamental reproductive health care rights  
15  would establish a clear, nationwide standard for reproductive health  
16  rights, preventing a patchwork of laws where rights vary  
17  significantly state by state; and  
18  **WHEREAS**, Under the United States Constitution, the United States  
19  Congress may submit a proposed constitutional amendment to the  
20  states if the proposed language is approved by a two-thirds vote of  
21  both Houses; and  
22  **WHEREAS**, In addition to constitutional amendments proposed by  
23  Congress, states may petition Congress to call a constitutional  
24  convention upon agreement of two-thirds of states; and  
25  **WHEREAS**, Constitutional amendments proposed by Congress or  
26  convention become valid only when ratified by the legislatures of,  
27  or conventions in, three-fourths of the states; and  
28  **WHEREAS**, As stated by United States Treasury Secretary Janet  
29  Yellen: “eliminating the rights of women to make decisions about  
30  when and whether to have children would have very damaging  
31  effects on the economy and would set women back decades”; and  
32  **WHEREAS**, Such constitutional amendment reaffirms the United  
33  States’ commitment to human rights by promoting individual  
34  freedoms and gender equality; and  
35  **WHEREAS**, A constitutional amendment may also help reduce  
36  disparities in access to reproductive health care, particularly for  
37  marginalized communities, including low-income individuals and  
38  people of color; and  
39  **WHEREAS**, New Jersey is a state that supports and provides  
40  protections for the reproductive freedom of its citizens, including  
41  the right to make the personal choice of whether to start or expand a  
42  family through in-vitro fertilization (IVF); and  
43  **WHEREAS**, It is in the public interest of the citizens of the State and  
44  this nation to condemn, in the strongest terms, any action that  
45  infringes on citizens’ rights to exercise their reproductive freedom  
46  or their ability to access reproductive health care, including IVF;  
47  and

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1 **WHEREAS**, The United States Congress has the ability to start the  
2 process of amending the Constitution to provide Americans  
3 reproductive health rights and freedoms and should do so; now,  
4 therefore

5

6 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*  
7 *State of New Jersey:*

8

9 1. This joint resolution urges the United States Congress to  
10 convene a constitutional convention to consider amending the  
11 federal Constitution to provide every person in this country the  
12 fundamental right to choose or refuse contraception or sterilization,  
13 and choose whether to carry a pregnancy, to give birth, or to  
14 terminate a pregnancy.

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16 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,  
17 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate or the Clerk of  
18 the General Assembly to each member elected from this State to the  
19 United States Senate and the United States House of  
20 Representatives.

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22 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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27 This joint resolution urges the United States Congress to call a  
28 Constitutional convention. Such a convention would consider  
29 amending the constitution to provide for reproductive health rights  
30 for all Americans, including the right to access contraception, to  
31 terminate a pregnancy, and to carry a pregnancy to term.

32

33 A constitutional amendment proposed by Congress through a  
34 constitutional convention, and ratified by three-fourths of the states,  
35 will ensure that all individuals, regardless of where they live, have  
access to essential reproductive health services.