



Good morning everyone and thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Saray Ramos, I am the Health Justice coordinator for the Latino Action Network Foundation. The LAN foundation is a 501c3 in the State of New Jersey, dedicated to the socio economic empowerment of Latinx communities across the State. We unequivocally support the rights to reproductive choice and freedom for all, including the right to an abortion. Today, abortion is legal and available in New Jersey. As such, we commend the state of New Jersey and thank all the legislators who sponsored and voted for the Freedom of Reproductive Choice Act earlier this year, including those present today and many more.

But now, the Supreme Court has taken away our federal right to abortion and overturned Roe v. Wade. Now more than ever we must continue the fight to ensure everyone has access to the care they need without stigma or delay, especially Black, Indigenous, and communities of color who are disproportionately affected by structural inequalities and discrimination. We need to fund more providers, to protect the under and uninsured and protect those that need health care services from retaliation.

Latinas face economic, cultural, and linguistic barriers to accessing reproductive health care. For some of us, a barrier may be immigration status, or language accessibility. For others, it may be income inequality or lack of health insurance, and for some, it may be all of the above. Latinas are hardest hit by the gender wage gap, making \$.45 for every \$1 their white male counterparts make and in NJ, Latinx communities are three times more likely to be uninsured. The barriers the Latinx community face in accessing health care are rooted in discrimination, and simply providing health care without addressing these barriers will not increase access in our communities. After all, the right to reproductive health care is meaningless if you cannot access it.

Pass A4530 and ensure everyone has access to abortion care without stigma and without delay! Thank you.