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RHTP Releases Watershed Report on the Relationship between Economic Security & Abortion Care

Washington, D.C. - In a new [report](#) released today, the Reproductive Health Technologies Project (RHTP) delineates the many links between reproductive health and economic security and the need to integrate them both into any proactive policy agenda to achieve equality for women. The report draws on critical new data from a longitudinal study conducted by Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health (ANSIRH) at the University of California, San Francisco.

That study, known as the Turnaway Study, tracks what happens to women who seek but are “turned away” from the abortion care they need. RHTP analyzed the study’s key findings—including the impact on the subjects’ economic status, health, and relationships—as well as other data to develop a rich picture of the interplay between women’s access to reproductive health care and their economic security.

The following is a statement by Jessica Arons, President and CEO of RHTP, on the new publication, [*Two Sides of the Same Coin: Integrating Economic & Reproductive Justice*](#).

“Access to comprehensive reproductive health care, including abortion, is essential to women’s economic security. Yet many progressive politicians and advocates often ignore this important connection.

“For the 42 million women living on the brink of poverty, a birth resulting from an unintended pregnancy is an incident that can upend the financial security of a woman and her family. The Turnaway Study makes it clear that it is impossible to cut off access to abortion care without inflicting further suffering on low-income families.

“Our report demonstrates that low-income women have few, if any, meaningful reproductive choices. They can’t afford to have a child. They can’t afford to have an abortion. They’re denied insurance coverage for abortion care. They’re increasingly cut off from family planning services. And they’re offered few supports when pregnant or parenting in school or the workplace.

“Put simply, an anti-poverty agenda is incomplete without measures to ensure access to affordable, comprehensive reproductive health services, including abortion care. We can and must do more. We need to advocate for economic and reproductive justice together, fight back against the constant attacks on abortion and contraception, and develop proactive measures that promote a vision of women’s self-determination alongside their self-sufficiency.”

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Founded in 1982, the mission of the Reproductive Health Technologies Project is to advance the ability of every woman of any age to achieve full reproductive freedom with access to the safest, most effective, appropriate and acceptable technologies for ensuring her own health and controlling her fertility. To fulfill this mission, we seek to build consensus in support of an education, research and advocacy agenda for reproductive health and reproductive freedom. We seek consensus through a process of dialogue among diverse communities about technological developments and their global implications.