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Gloria Allred & Small Businesses Call on Gov. Brown to Sign Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Act

Landmark Bill Would Protect Women From Workplace Discrimination

(San Francisco, CA): Today, supporters of the *Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Act* ([AB 569](#)) called on Governor Jerry Brown to sign the bill into law.

RHNDA, introduced by Assemblymember Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher (D-San Diego) and sponsored by NARAL Pro-Choice California and California Latinas for Reproductive Justice, protects California workers from firing or other punishment in the workplace because of their private reproductive health choices.

Acclaimed women's rights attorney Gloria Allred, who represented a woman who was [fired for being pregnant and unmarried](#), spoke to the importance of adding these protections to California law.

"Teri James and her husband Brandon were very courageous to speak out against this injustice and Teri has asked me to inform California leaders that she supports AB 569," said Allred. **"Teri feels that her baby is a blessing. She was honest about her pregnancy and she was not willing to lie about it in order to keep her job. She does not want what happened to her to happen to anyone else."**

"Family planning should never cost a woman her job," said Assemblymember David Chiu (D-San Francisco), a co-author of the bill. **"As the federal government tries to strip away access to reproductive healthcare, it is essential that California step in and pass AB 569."**

The conference was hosted at West of Pecos, one of [more than 300 businesses](#) that signed on to show that the business community supports protecting workers from discrimination. Tyler MacNevin, co-owner of West of Pecos and Season 9 winner of The Amazing Race, spoke to his support as a business owner.

"As a citizen, business owner, and soon to be father, I don't believe professional stability should be a factor when it comes to making decisions about reproduction. The last thing

someone needs is the stress of questioning job security with regards to making those decisions."

Rebecca Griffin, Associate Director of California Programs for NARAL Pro-Choice California, spoke to the importance of taking this stand in an environment of hostility toward reproductive freedom.

"The House of Representatives just voted to wipe out these same reproductive health protections for the residents of DC. Opposition groups in California testified at hearing after hearing to argue they should maintain the right to fire a woman who has an abortion or uses birth control," said Griffin. **"Reproductive freedom is under attack nationwide, and Governor Brown must act to protect Californians by signing AB 569."**

"AB 569 would be a step in the right direction," added Jeannette Zanipatin, Board Member with California Latinas for Reproductive Justice. **"Reproductive Justice includes the ability of women to have workplace protections, regardless of how we exercise our bodily autonomy when we make personal private decisions about the size of our families."**

On Wednesday, elected officials, organizations and other influencers took to Twitter to call on Gov. Brown to sign RHND. You can see highlights from the day of action [here](#).

You can find video of the press conference [here](#).

Bill author Assemblymember Gonzalez Fletcher said in a statement, **"Women in this country have been fired for getting pregnant while unmarried, for using in-vitro fertilization and for a variety of other reasons related to their own reproductive health. This is outrageous and needs to stop. No woman should ever lose a job for exercising her right to decide when, how, or whether to have a family."** To interview Asm. Gonzalez Fletcher, contact Alex Roth at [619-338-3090](tel:619-338-3090).

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