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**West Virginia Organization Receives Grant to Advance Fight for Reproductive Freedom in Charleston, Huntington and Morgantown**

*National Institute for Reproductive Health Announces Funding for WV FREE to Support Three West Virginia Cities in Their Efforts to Advance Proactive Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice*

**New York** – The [National Institute for Reproductive Health](#) (NIRH) today announced new grant funding for **WV FREE** to advocate for public awareness campaigns and policy fights to advance reproductive health, rights, and justice in Charleston, Huntington and Morgantown. Faced with an anti-choice governor and legislature, NIRH is investing in the organization best equipped to ensure access to high-quality, supportive abortion care in a state with only one remaining abortion clinic.

While D.C. is embroiled in constant conflict, advocates and policymakers at the city-level are quietly working on proactive policy to help women and families thrive. In West Virginia, NIRH and WV FREE are beginning a multi-city initiative to unmask the deceptive practices of the state’s 25 so-called ‘crisis pregnancy centers,’ anti-abortion fake clinics that masquerade as medical facilities to deceive and prevent people from obtaining abortion care. Together, NIRH and WV FREE will ensure that community members have access to reliable resources for the health care they need.

“We know that investing local is the best way to safeguard and advance women’s health and reproductive freedom in the face of a hostile federal and state government,” said **Andrea Miller, President of the National Institute for Reproductive Health**. “NIRH is proud to join WV FREE in their mission to ensure West Virginia communities have access to reliable, medically accurate reproductive health care and stop these fake clinics from misleading women.”

“We have been going door to door all over the state to educate people about the harms of these sham clinics,” said **Margaret Chapman Pomponio, WV FREE Executive Director**. “They are resoundingly opposed to their deceptive tactics and are on board with our efforts to expose them. West Virginians deserve better, plain and simple.”

From New England to the Rust Belt to the Deep South, NIRH is committed to working with WV FREE and seven additional on-the-ground partners in 12 cities to use [the Local Reproductive Freedom Index](#) as a core part of their strategy to educate their communities, organize their base,

and successfully pass and implement legislation that expands reproductive health, rights, and justice.

### ***About the National Institute for Reproductive Health***

*The National Institute for Reproductive Health builds power at the state and local level to change public policy, galvanize public support, and normalize women's decisions about abortion and contraception.*

*Using a partnership model, we provide state and local advocates with strategic guidance, hands-on support, and funding to create national change from the ground up. We are a force multiplier – we form strategic partnerships with a wide range of organizations to directly impact the reproductive health and lives of women across the country. Each year, NIRH works in at least 20 states and more than a dozen localities; to date, NIRH has provided direct grants and hands-on support to more than 150 reproductive health, rights, and justice organizations in 39 states and 56 localities across the country.*

*At the national level, NIRH engages in groundbreaking public opinion research, proactive policy initiatives, and innovative advocacy campaigns to shape a new national conversation about reproductive freedom.*

### ***About WV FREE***

*Founded in 1989, WV FREE (WV Focus: Reproductive Education & Equality) is a reproductive justice organization working for West Virginia women and families by improving education on reproductive options, increasing access to affordable birth control, reducing teen pregnancy, improving adolescent health, engaging voters about reproductive justice issues, promoting policy that eliminates barriers to education, health care, and economic stability, and protecting personal decision-making, including the decision of whether or when to have a child.*

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