

Tibor Navracsics  
Ministry of Public Administration and Justice

Dear Tibor Navracsics!

We, the undersigned experts and non-governmental organizations writing to express our concern about the Proposal T/12824. which would hinder the right to self-determination with regards to contraceptive methods. If the proposal is adopted only people above 40 years old or already having 3 children could opt for sterilization for non-medical reasons. However legitimate is the aim to increase the number of children as claimed by the Government, this is an ineffective way that infringes the right to self-determination.

As the Hungarian Constitutional Court ruled earlier: neither population politics, nor the obligation of the state to protect health justifies restricting the right to self-determination based on the number of children. Moreover, data shows that the number of such procedures is very low compared to the number of live births, 90.000 in 2012. According to the data provided by the Ministry of Human Resources, 10 male and 159 female sterilization procedures were carried out for non-medical reason in 2012. Data shows similar figures compared to previous years with a drop in the number of female sterilizations. Thus limiting the choice of women and men to choose this form of preventing pregnancies would not effectively increase the number of births. However, we would like to stress again that population politics can never justify such severe violation of the right to self-determination.

While we acknowledge the seriousness of the procedure, we believe that the obligation of the state is to ensure that the choice made is free and based on informed consent. The current Hungarian law contains guarantees to ensure that people make a well thought out choice as it further emphasizes the right to information and also sets mandatory waiting periods. According to the law longer mandatory waiting periods apply to people under 26 (two times six months), while people above 26 still have to wait two times three months from the initiation of the process until its actually being carried out.

For the above-mentioned reasons we request you to stop this amendment by speaking up against it and by instructing members of your party to vote against it.

Respectfully yours,

Irene Donadio, Manager, Public Affairs  
Krystyna Kacpura, executive Director  
Dr.Radosveta Stamenkova , Executive Director  
Iveta Kelle, Executive Director

Global Doctors for Choice  
IPPF EN - International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network  
Federation for Women and Family Planning, Poland  
Bulgarian Family Planning and Sexual Health Association  
Latvia's Association for Family Planning and Sexual Health

Johannes Rindal, President	Sex og Politikk– Norwegian Association for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
Alice France, Director	P&D Factor – Portuguese Association for Cooperation on Population and Development
Dominique Audouze, International Affairs Officer	Le Planning Familial – French Movement for Family Planning
Marlies Carlier, International Policy Advisor	Sensoa – Belgian expertise center for Sexual Health
Susanne Rohner, Advocacy Officer	Swiss Foundation for Sexual and Reproductive Health Parliamentary and Policy Advisor, UK All Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and Reproductive Health, UK Parliament
Anne-Mette Kjaerby	Parliamentary and Policy Advisor, Serbian All Party Parliamentary Group for Sustainable Development, National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia
Dejana Rankovic	Ohio Senate 15th District
Senator Charleta B. Tavares	Center for Women Policy Studies
Leslie R. Wolfe, Ph.D., President	Federacion de Planificacion Familiar Estatal
Filomena Ruggiero	AnA-Society for Feminist Analyses
Daniela Draghici	University of California, Berkeley
Sarah Jane Holcombe	Reproductive Health Matters
Marge Berer, Editor	Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada
Joyce Arthur, Executive Director	Foundation For Leadership Initiatives
Shiv Khare CEO	Fellow, International Reproductive and Sexual Health Law Program, Faculty of Law, University of Toronto
Christina Zampas	Abortion-information
Anne-Marie Rey	Center for Reproductive Rights
Johanna Westeson, Regional Director for Europe	ASTRA Network
Marta Szostak	Association for emancipation, solidarity and equality of women of RM – ESE
Borjan Pavlovski	Catholics for Choice
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Signatures collected by  
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