

**FACT SHEET:****WHY WE OPPOSE SB 6612 and  
SEX-SELECTIVE ABORTION BANS****What are so-called “sex-selective abortion bans”?**

Sex-selective abortion bans are an anti-abortion ruse that presents a false choice between gender equity and abortion rights. They make it illegal for a doctor to perform an abortion when she knows or suspects her patient is seeking an abortion due to a preference for the sex of her child. Some such laws also require nurses or doctors to report a patient to law enforcement, even in cases where they are only suspicious about her motives. If a doctor or nurse violates the law, he or she can face jail time, fines, and even lawsuits from a patient or her family.

**Why are these bans bad?**

**This is a slippery slope.** These bans open the door for politicians to further intrude into the personal health decisions of patients. They set a dangerous precedent for allowing politicians to begin defining what are good and bad reasons for seeking an abortion, and are a slippery slope to even more restrictions on access to safe, legal reproductive health care.

**They undermine the doctor-patient relationship.** Patients must be able to trust their doctors. By forcing doctors to scrutinize and report a patient's motivations for seeking care to authorities, sex-selective abortion bans would interfere with open, honest communication between doctors and patients.

**They jeopardize the health of Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI), solely for the purpose of pushing a political agenda.** Supporters of these bans claim they are necessary because of Asians who migrate to the U.S. and bring “backward” values with them. This stereotype about the values of the AAPI community is not only ugly—it's dangerous. These bans could lead to AAPI patients being singled out for special questioning or even being denied care.

**Why must Washington stand against these bans?****These bans affect a large number of people in Washington.**

AAPI are the fastest growing racial group in Washington. Washington has the fifth-largest Asian American community in the country. **Washington's AAPI community already struggles with substantial barriers to seeking and accessing health care services.** Over 50% of Vietnamese (65.6%), Hmong (61.5%), Laotian (51%) and Cambodian Americans in Washington have limited English proficiency. 21% of the AAPI population in the United States is uninsured, and 13% of Asian Americans in Washington State live in poverty. Sex-selective abortion bans not only further undermine the ability of AAPI women to have open and honest conversations with their health care provider, but also increase the likelihood that providers will deny them the care and information they need.

**NAPAWF is joined by the following organizations in opposing SB 6612 and sex-selective abortion bans:**

ACLU-WA ♦ American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, WA Chapter ♦ Legal Voice ♦ Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest & Hawaii ♦ Surge ♦ The CAIR Project ♦ OneAmerica

**TRUE OR FALSE?**

*Sex-selective abortion is a widespread problem in the United States.*

**FALSE.** In fact, according to census data, AAPIs are actually having *more* girl babies on average than White Americans.

*Supporters of these bans are concerned about women's rights and gender equity.*

**FALSE.** Supporters of sex-selective abortion bans often have voting records opposing not just abortion and family planning but also policies like pay equity, health care access, safety net benefits for children and families, and greater protection for survivors of domestic violence. In other words, they don't support policies that would actually give women more agency and power in their lives.

*These bans are effective at preventing sex selection.*

**FALSE AGAIN!** An analysis of states where these laws have been passed shows that they make no difference whatsoever in the gender ratio