


(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. _____

Condemning unwanted, unnecessary medical procedures on individuals without their full, informed consent.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. JAYAPAL submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Condemning unwanted, unnecessary medical procedures on individuals without their full, informed consent.

Whereas there is a shameful history in the United States of Black, Indigenous, people of color, immigrants, poor people, and people with disabilities being subjected to medical procedures without their informed consent;

Whereas 32 States passed eugenic-sterilization laws, resulting in the sterilization of between 60,000 to 70,000 people in the early 1900s;

Whereas 25 percent of Native American women of child-bearing age were sterilized over the course of 6 years after the passage of the Family Planning Services and Population Research Act of 1970;

Whereas incarcerated individuals have continued to face sterilization practices, including nearly 150 incarcerated women in California prisons sterilized between 2006 and 2010;

Whereas, on September 14, 2020, a coalition of organizations, including Project South, Georgia Detention Watch, Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights, and South Georgia Immigrant Support Network, filed a complaint to the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General expressing concerns about the Irwin County Detention Center in Ocilla, Georgia, including detained immigrant women receiving unnecessary hysterectomies and a lack of informed consent for gynecological procedures;

Whereas a growing number of women are coming forward to share stories of unwanted, unnecessary medical procedures, including full or partial hysterectomies and other procedures involving their reproductive organs, performed without their knowledge or consent;

Whereas, on September 16, 2020, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement nearly deported a woman who was formerly detained at Irwin County Detention Center who had one fallopian tube removed without her knowledge or consent;

Whereas, on September 18, 2020, 4 women came forward saying that they did not approve of the procedures they received;

Whereas an initial review of available medical records by independent gynecologists raises serious questions about whether patients detained at the Irwin County Detention

Center provided informed consent and whether prevailing standards of care were adhered to in their care; and

Whereas these allegations indicate a failure by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to conduct rigorous oversight to protect the health and safety of people in its custody: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) condemns performing unwanted, unnecessary
3 sary medical procedures on individuals without their
4 full, informed consent;

5 (2) recognizes that everyone deserves to control
6 their own reproductive choices and make informed
7 choices about their bodies;

8 (3) recognizes that further accountability, oversight,
9 and transparency is necessary to protect people in the custody of U.S. Immigration and Customs
10 Enforcement; and

11 (4) calls on the Department of Homeland Security to—

12 (A) pause the removal of any individual
13 who experienced any medical procedure at the
14 Irwin County Detention Center;

15 (B) allow individuals who may have experienced an unnecessary or nonconsensual procedure to have immediate access to adequate,
16 safe, and consensual medical treatment or to
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1 seek a second opinion from an independent
2 medical professional;

3 (C) immediately comply with all investiga-
4 tions and records requests related to investiga-
5 tions about the Irwin County Detention Center;

6 (D) ensure impacted individuals are able to
7 freely participate in any investigation and share
8 their stories without fear of reprisal; and

9 (E) hold all individuals involved in these
10 incidents accountable and bring them to justice.