Media Advisory For Immediate Release

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Feminist Women's Health Center to host *A Peoples Hearing -- The Whole Women's Health Act*

ATLANTA, GA – Feminist Women's Health Center will host a People's Hearing on the Whole Women's Health Act on **Saturday, May 19th from 12:30pm-3:00 pm at Phillip Rush Center**, 1530 DeKalb Ave NE a, Atlanta, GA 30307. The Whole Women's Health Act builds on the 2016 Whole Woman's Health v Hellerstedt case, in which the Supreme Court ruled that any restrictions on abortion access must serve legitimate medical purposes supported by evidence. The Act would explicitly repeal *Women's Right to Know*, a 2005 law requiring counseling and a waiting period which abortion activists and doctors agree create hurdles for abortion seekers and serves only to make abortion harder without serving any legitimate medical purpose.

Members of organizations including ACLU of Georgia, SPARK Reproductive Justice Now, and the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum as well as researchers, clinic workers, clinic volunteers, and people who have had abortions. will join Feminist Center and our supporters at the People's Hearing to explain how supporters can strengthen the campaign to pass the Whole Women's Health Act in Georgia. S

The People's Hearing will also lift up the federal Women's Health Protection Act, a federal bill designed to invalidate state laws that single out abortion for regulations that serve no medical purpose and only make abortion more difficult to access. If passed this bill would also invalidate Women's Right to Know, as well as multiple other abortion restrictions in Georgia and across the country.

Organizers also hope to influence the public dialogue, social media campaigns, and strengthen educational and accessibility efforts on the local and statewide levels in hope that more community members will stand up and declare their support of the Whole Women's Health Act and the Women's Health Protection Act.

Feminist Center Executive Director Kwajelyn Jackson, "We've tried for two years to get the General Assembly to do the right thing and hold a hearing on this bill, and we are not waiting anymore." Feminist Center and reproductive justice leaders hope that a People's Hearing will expose harmful abortion restrictions that lack both health benefits and factual grounding. They also hope to build energy for proactive legislation that would undo current restrictions.

Megan Gordon, Feminist Center Public Affairs Coordinator and Lobbyist "We at the Feminist Women's Health Center in Atlanta are committed to secure our rights in law and to improve access to reproductive health care." Feminist Center is the only independent abortion clinic with a presence in our state legislature. Because of activists and partners like those coming on May 19th we have a blueprint for change. We are expecting experienced and emerging activists to come and attend to this open event. We understand how important it is to expand the ranks of the movement and that is exactly what this event will do.

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<u>Feminist Women's Health Center</u> provides safe, accessible and compassionate abortion can gynecological care to all who need it without judgment. The only non-profit, independent, locally based organization in Georgia that directly provides reproductive health services, while also protecting reproductive rights and promoting reproductive justice through organizing and advocacy.

In 1976, as part of a Federation of Feminist Women's Health Centers, the Atlanta Feminist Women's Health Center was founded with the mission of providing safe, supportive and non-judgmental abortion and gynecological care services, consciousness raising meetings, and self-help workshops.

Over the years, influenced by the work of reproductive justice leaders like Loretta Ross and SisterSong Reproductive Justice Collective, we recognized the need to adopt an intersectional approach and move away from a pro-choice centered framework.

Integrating a reproductive justice framework is ongoing work that has informed and shaped us as an organization, and led to development of programs and services that specifically seek to address systemic inequities in healthcare and society that affect women, people of color, immigrant families, low-income and rural communities, and people from the trans and LGBQIA+ communities.

You can learn more about our history through the in-depth timeline.