Two bills currently passing through the legislature are aimed at restricting abortion for young people. Senate Bill 1774 and House Bill 1335 are not identical but both bills would make it necessary for a young person, faced with an unintended pregnancy, to obtain parental consent prior to receiving an abortion. This goes beyond current law that requires parental notification if a minor is intending to have an abortion. Most health care professionals oppose these laws and fear they will make it increasingly difficult for young people, who already face many challenges when accessing abortion care, to obtain the health care services they need.

Research indicates young people usually confide in a parent or guardian when faced with an unintended pregnancy. Those who do not reach out may fear for their safety or be victims of abuse. In cases where a minor does not wish to request consent, a judicial waiver can be obtained. However, both the waiver and consent process have the effect of creating unnecessary delays in accessing abortion care. Delays lead to more invasive later-term abortions, thus adding increased risk for young people impacted by this proposed legislation.

What can you do to oppose these bills?
*Call or email your senate and house representatives as well as watch out for, and act upon, LWVFL action alerts as they arise.*