

Chile

The Foundation is concerned about the consequences for women's health of the legal prohibition on abortion, without exceptions. While there are no official statistics on the number of abortions performed annually, the large number of women who are hospitalized for abortion complications every year (34,479 in 2001) gives an indication of the extent of this problem. The Foundation is concerned about the scope of the planned law (on the reorganization of subsidies for industrial disablement and sick leave) which would involve a legislative restriction of the current law, permitting parents a subsidized leave from work to care for children under the age of 1 in the case of serious illness.

The Black Caucus Foundation recommends that the government revise its legislation and decriminalize abortion in cases of therapeutic abortions and when the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest. The Foundation also recommends that the government ensure that women in the reproductive age are not discriminated against in the private health-care system. The Foundation also encourages the government to provide greater access to generic medicine making use of the flexibility clauses permitted in the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (the TRIPS Agreement).