

“Yesterday, Rep. Trent Franks took to the House Floor and embarrassed himself by offering up misleading and insensitive remarks about AAPI women and birth rates in this country. Franks’ insulting comments were just another sad chapter in the Republican crusade to attack women and undermine the essential reproductive services they need. I have worked throughout my career to safeguard the rights of all women, especially their fundamental reproductive rights.

That is why I unequivocally oppose the deceptive and offensive H.R. 3541, the Prenatal Non-Discrimination Act (PRENDA). PRENDA purports to advance gender equity by banning sex-selective abortions, but in reality it is a vicious attack on women’s rights and its sponsor is perpetuating harmful stereotypes about Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI). AAPI women in particular are especially vulnerable to scrutiny and racial stereotyping, given the issue of sex selection in Asian countries. If this bill passes, it will encourage racial profiling in the doctor’s office and AAPI women will have their motives scrutinized by abortion providers. In fear of facing jail time, doctors could subject any woman who appears Asian to questioning and may even deny care. Further, this would be the first time a woman’s motives for termination are being questioned- opening the door for all women to be subjected to escalated questioning of their reasons in the future. AAPI women already face disproportionate barriers to quality, comprehensive medical care, and the health disparities that accompany them. They do not need another obstacle. I vote “NO” against PRENDA and this Republican war on women, and will continue to fight for equitable and comprehensive access to healthcare for all women.”