LGBTQI+ Letter to Policymakers in Support of Abortion

June 2, 2022

The undersigned organizations representing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQI+) people write to state our deep and unequivocal support for the right to abortion. We call on policymakers in all branches and at all levels of government to use every mechanism at their disposal to ensure that abortion care remains not only legal, but also available and accessible to all who need it.

Why are our organizations speaking out? For us the connections are plain to see. We need abortion care ourselves. And many places that provide abortion care also provide culturally competent care to the LGBTQI+ community. We understand that the freedom to end a pregnancy, to access contraception, and to help our bodies align with our gender identity are essential to our health, dignity and autonomy, and to freedom from discrimination based on sex. And the Constitution’s stated promises of liberty and equality serve as the font not only of the right to abortion, but the rights to sexual privacy and to marry who we love.

It is no coincidence that we are witnessing the disappearance of reproductive autonomy at the same time that we are seeing a wave of hostile policies across the nation targeting LGBTQI+ people. Our common opponents are emboldened at a time when the Supreme Court has abandoned any pretense of protecting individual freedom and when democracy itself is under grave threat.

For too long we have relied on Supreme Court decisions to ensure that the decision whether or not to continue a pregnancy remained with the individual and not the state. That supposed guarantee was of course never a guarantee at all for those denied Medicaid and other insurance coverage for - and thus access to - abortion, or those caught up in the endless obstacles created by anti-abortion policies. And now we know that even bedrock U.S. Supreme Court precedents are subject to reversal when political fortunes shift. The next wave of draconian restrictions on, and outright bans of, abortion care will – like those enacted over prior decades – fall hardest on those with fewer financial resources, including, disproportionately, people of color.
Regardless of one’s own personal feelings about abortion, making it impossible to access through barriers and bans undermines other people’s basic right of self-determination. Forcing anyone to be or remain pregnant against their will is the very antithesis of the liberty guaranteed by our Constitution. If the Supreme Court won't recognize this, it is up to legislators and other government officials to do so. It is time for every public official who believes in true personal freedom to use their power to work toward reproductive justice for all.

Signed by:

National Center for Lesbian Rights

Ace and Aro Alliance of Central Ohio
Affirmations Community Center
AIDS United
Alyssa Rodriguez Center for Gender Justice
Athlete Ally
Atlanta Pride Committee
Bergen County LGBTQ Alliance
Brooklyn Community Pride Center
Campus Pride
Center for Disability Rights
Center for LGBTQ Economic Advancement & Research (CLEAR)
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers
Colors+
Compass LGBTQ Community Center
Council for Global Equality
Equality California
Equality Nevada
Family Equality
First City Pride Center
FORGE, Inc.
Four Corners Rainbow Youth Center
Freedom from Religion Foundation
Gay City: Seattle’s LGBTQ Center
GenderNexus
GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality
GLSEN
Henderson Equality Center
High Impacto
Hudson Pride Center
Hugh Lane Wellness Foundation
Human Rights Campaign
Institute for LGBT Health and Wellbeing
Lambda Legal
Lancaster LGBTQ+ Coalition
Lexington Pride Center
LGBT Detroit
LGBT Life Center
LGBTQ Center of Bay County, Inc.
LGBTQ Victory Fund
LGBTQ+ & Equity Consulting, LLC
LGBTQ+ Allies Lake County
Los Angeles LGBT Center
Mazzoni Center
Movement Advancement Project
Muslim Alliance for Sexual and Gender Diversity (MASGD)
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Coalition for LGBTQ Health
National Council of Jewish Women
National LGBT Cancer Network
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
National LGBTQ+ Bar Association
New Haven Pride Center
Oasis Legal Services
one-n-ten
Our Family Coalition
Out On The Lakeshore
OutCenter Southwest Michigan
OutFront Kalamazoo
Outright Vermont
Pacific Pride Foundation
PFLAG National
PGH Equality Center
Positive Women’s Network-USA
Pride Center of Vermont
Pridelines
QWELL Community Foundation
Rainbow Center
Rainbow Families
Rainbow Rose Center
Resource Center
SAGE Metro Detroit
SCV Pride Center
Seacoast Outright
Shenandoah LGBTQ Center
Silver State Equality-Nevada
The DC Center for the LGBT Community
The LGBT Center of Greater Reading
The Montrose Center
The Pride Center at Equality Park
The Spahr Center
TransAthlete
Transcend Charlotte
Transgender Law Center
Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund
Uptown Gay & Lesbian Alliance (UGLA)
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity
Washington County Gay Straight Alliance, Inc.
Whitman-Walker Institute
Youth Outlook
Youth OUTright