

# **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	Family Equality
Affirmations Community Center	First City Pride Center
AIDS United	FORGE, Inc.
Alyssa Rodriguez Center for Gender Justice	Four Corners Rainbow Youth Center
Athlete Ally	Freedom from Religion Foundation
Atlanta Pride Committee	Gay City: Seattle's LGBTQ Center
Bergen County LGBTQ Alliance	GenderNexus
Brooklyn Community Pride Center	GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders
Campus Pride	GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality
Center for Disability Rights	GLSEN
Center for LGBTQ Economic Advancement & Research (CLEAR)	Henderson Equality Center
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers	High Impacto
Colors+	Hudson Pride Center
Compass LGBTQ Community Center	Hugh Lane Wellness Foundation
Council for Global Equality	Human Rights Campaign
Equality California	Institute for LGBT Health and Wellbeing
Equality Nevada	Lambda Legal
	Lancaster LGBTQ+ Coalition

Lexington Pride Center	Positive Women's Network-USA
LGBT Detroit	Pride Center of Vermont
LGBT Life Center	Pridelines
LGBTQ Center of Bay County, Inc.	QWELL Community Foundation
LGBTQ Victory Fund	Rainbow Center
LGBTQ+ & Equity Consulting, LLC	Rainbow Families
LGBTQ+ Allies Lake County	Rainbow Rose Center
Los Angeles LGBT Center	Resource Center
Mazzoni Center	SAGE Metro Detroit
Movement Advancement Project	SCV Pride Center
Muslim Alliance for Sexual and Gender Diversity (MASGD)	Seacoast Outright
National Center for Transgender Equality	Shenandoah LGBTQ Center
National Coalition for LGBTQ Health	Silver State Equality-Nevada
National Council of Jewish Women	The DC Center for the LGBT Community
National LGBT Cancer Network	The LGBT Center of Greater Reading
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund	The Montrose Center
National LGBTQ+ Bar Association	The Pride Center at Equality Park
New Haven Pride Center	The Spahr Center
Oasis Legal Services	Transcend Charlotte
one-n-ten	Transgender Law Center
Our Family Coalition	Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund
Out On The Lakeshore	Uptown Gay & Lesbian Alliance (UGLA)
OutCenter Southwest Michigan	URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity
OutFront Kalamazoo	Washington County Gay Straight Alliance, Inc.
Outright Vermont	Whitman-Walker Institute
Pacific Pride Foundation	Youth Outlook
PFLAG National	Youth OUTright
PGH Equality Center	