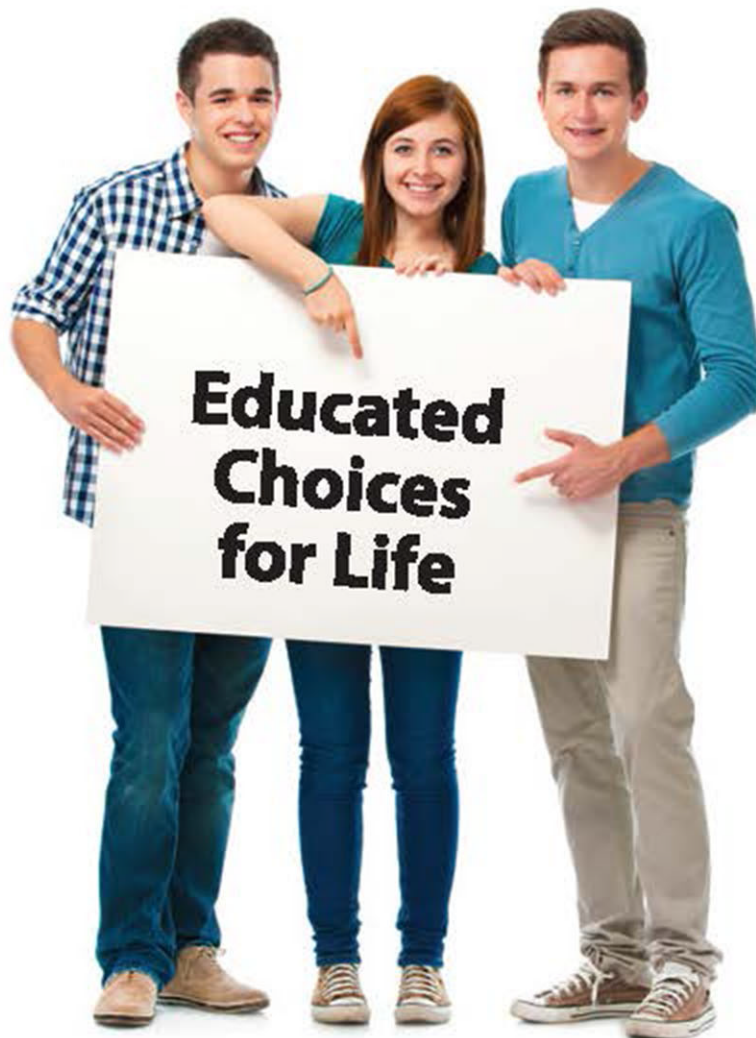




# Voices for Choice

**Winter 2022**  
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



*Citizens for Choice promotes reproductive justice through education, health care access and advocacy. We exist to inform and enable choice.*



# Voices for Choice

*Dear Readers And Supporters!*

*Well, here we are, despite last year's challenges of Covid variants, an unprecedented year of threats to healthcare access and a snowstorm for the ages in December. Citizens for Choice and the Clinic in Grass Valley welcome this year in a remarkably good place. Due to the hard, sustained work of the board and the constancy of our supporters, we are currently on a stable financial footing in spite of huge expenses incurred in having to move in 2021. Monthly expenses increased to over \$4,000 along with utilities, cleaning costs and the like. That being said, we have a wonderful new space with three large exam rooms, waiting room, breakroom, nurse station and so forth. Located in a centrally-located, easily accessible yet quiet spot, the new Clinic is perfect for our needs. For those of you readers who do not know, Claire Miller is our Clinic Manager, and we are fully staffed with a certified nurse midwife and other health workers. The Clinic will now be open four days a week, Monday through Thursday. Claire will be present on Fridays for pregnancy tests.*

*We are truly making a difference in Nevada County. We assiduously continue to promote public policies that lead to our vision of universal, affordable access to contraception and abortion for everyone, regardless of income or location. (Surgical abortions are not done at the clinic. However, medication ones are and can be accessed through Telehealth.) We continue to see clients for STIs, family planning, breast health, etc. and we service teens, pan-sexual individuals, men, LGBTQIA+ and others. We do not discriminate. Thanks to all of you for continuing to support the Clinic and its important work. If you are interested in volunteering or learning more, visit [citizensforchoice.org](http://citizensforchoice.org). Interested in joining our board?*

*Contact Elaine Sierra at [esierra65@comcast.net](mailto:esierra65@comcast.net) or  
Lynn Wenzel at [lwinparadise1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwinparadise1@sbcglobal.net).*

*Have a healthy and safe 2022!*

*"The moment to act is now. We must enshrine women's reproductive freedom into law."*

*~ Rep. Deborah Ross  
(D-N.C)*

## WELCOME MACKENZIE DILLIS!

by Marty DeKay Bemis

Citizens for Choice and Women's Health Specialists are pleased to introduce the newest staff member to The Clinic!, Mackenzie Dillis. Mackenzie, a Certified Nurse Midwife, comes to The Clinic! with extensive reproductive health experience and an enthusiastic demeanor.

After completing nursing school at Fitchburg State University in Fitchburg, Massachusetts in 2012, Mackenzie and her best friend searched for adventure and a new place to call home. After researching various parts of the country, they landed in Sacramento. Mackenzie finds Sacramento exhilarating and especially enjoys the diversity of ethnicity, cultures, foreign languages and foods. She enjoys the contrast to her small hometown in Connecticut where the population was largely homogeneous.

After graduating from nursing school, Mackenzie realized she wanted to expand her knowledge and obtain a master's degree in an advanced nursing field. With a particular passion for sexual and reproductive health as well as mental health, and with an emphasis on gender affirming care, she pursued her master's degree through Frontier University, graduating in 2019. Becoming a Certified Nurse Midwife has allowed Mackenzie to continue her passion.



Her specific interest in LGBTQ care brings expanded services to Women's Health Specialists and The Clinic!

During Mackenzie's Nurse Midwife training, she studied at Best Start Birth Center in San Diego. Throughout the time that she trained there, she "caught" 51 babies. Her first experience was when she was only 3 days into her training and a woman who was in labor gave birth in the hallway of the hospital. When the woman announced that her baby was coming, Mackenzie dropped down to the floor and delivered the baby. Quite an introduction to birthing! She always felt a special bond with the birthing mothers but found her interest was more in the pre and post-delivery stages than the actual birthing process.

Mackenzie worked at Planned Parenthood in Reno as her first job as a Certified Nurse Midwife. Her commute of over 2 hours each way quickly became too much for her and she rented a small studio in Reno to use during her work week, returning home to Sacramento on weekends and holidays.

This, too, became too much so she returned to Sacramento full time.

When seeking employment after her Planned Parenthood job, Mackenzie found that her ideals matched perfectly with Women's Health Specialists. She enjoys teaching her patients and providing as much information as possible.

She also appreciates the opportunity for autonomy and is a strong supporter of choice in reproductive health. She is a perfect match for Women's Health Specialists and The Clinic.

As a Certified Nurse Midwife, Mackenzie is licensed to prescribe medications, including all forms of contraception, gender affirming hormones, and medications for medical abortion. She is also licensed to perform procedures such as IUD insertion and removal as well as Nexplanon and Implanon insertions and removals.

In her spare time, Mackenzie enjoys listening to many podcasts with a focus on medical history. She currently lives in Sacramento with a roommate and her cat "Nyx."

Citizens for Choice welcomes Mackenzie to Grass Valley. She is a delightful addition to the clinic team, bringing compassion and enthusiasm to her role as clinic medical provider at The Clinic!.

## A MESSY PATCHWORK

The Supreme Court's abdication of judicial responsibility is forcing activists to pay greater attention to state courts and state constitutions as a "promising, under-appreciated and threatened venue for protecting abortion rights."

A key feature of our federal system is that state courts get to interpret their own state's constitution and other laws. So, it is state supreme courts, not the Supreme Court, that get to be the final word in interpreting the meaning of state constitutional provisions. In other words, *when it comes to protecting civil and human rights, "the U.S. Constitution functions as a floor, not a ceiling."*

Reproductive rights litigators have increasingly looked to state courts as promising venues. In the past three years, Kansas and Iowa supreme courts have issued rulings protecting abortion rights under their state constitutions. Yet, state courts continue to largely fly under the radar as conservative groups constantly pour financial resources into building state supreme court majorities. There has been little by way of a "progressive judges" movement like that for prosecutors. Further, progressives do not regularly seek out spots on judicial nominating commissions, used in many states where governors appoint judges to vet candidates and provide shortlists.

From January through May in 2021, at least 26 states introduced at least 93 bills that would politicize or undermine the independence of state courts. Who notices? Seemingly no one and there is little to no mobilized opposition. State courts in many places most likely to attack reproductive rights may not have judges ready to defend them. Rulings can also prompt backlash or targeting justices up for reelection or reappointment. Fear of backlash can make state courts timid.

Nevertheless, it makes sense to build courts that can function as a vanguard in protecting reproductive rights. State courts have usually been afterthoughts when developing strategies. Now it is time to move them front and center in the fight.

~

In July 2019, the Brennan Center for Justice published *State Supreme Court Diversity*, which detailed vast racial, ethnic, and gender disparities on state high courts across the country, drawing on more than 60 years of data. Today's lack of judicial diversity is driven by many factors, including a long history of racial and gender discrimination in the United States and inequities in access to law schools and the legal bar. The below analysis updates the report with new data on the composition of state supreme courts as of April 6, 2021. Key findings include:

In **22 states**, no justices publicly identify as a person of color, including in 11 states where people of color make up at least 20 percent of the population.

- ~There are no Black justices in 28 states.
- ~There are no Latino justices in 40 states.
- ~There are no Asian American justices in 44 states.
- ~There are no Native American justices in 47 states.
- Across all state high courts, just 17% of justices are Black, Latino, Asian American, or Native American. By contrast, people of color make up almost 40% of the U.S. population.
- Women hold 39 % of state supreme court seats.
- In 12 states, there is only one woman on the supreme court bench.
- Over a third (37 percent) of sitting justices are former prosecutors, while only 7% are former public defenders.

Thanks to Alicia Bannon for some of the information in this article.

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Nevada County  
Citizens for Choice



## MY TAX DOLLARS ARE GOING WHERE?

While all eyes are on the Texas abortion ban and the Supreme Court, a new report shines light on the less visible side of the anti-choice movement: Fake or “crisis pregnancy centers” preying on low-income women and particularly Black women—with false promises, dangerous misinformation, stigmatizing judgment, and outright lies.

*Designed to Deceive: A Study of the Crisis Pregnancy Center Industry in Nine States*, authored by **The Alliance: State Advocates for Women’s Rights & Gender Equality**, is a collaboration among five regional women’s rights advocacy centers—Legal Voice, Gender Justice, Women’s Law Project, Southwest Law Center and California Women’s Law Center. The report shows how the “modernized, proliferating and mostly evangelical CPC industry” uses deceptive tactics and medically inaccurate information to delay and obstruct access to abortion and prenatal care. CPCs outnumber abortion providers by three to one nationally—and in some states by as much as eleven to one.

Tara Murtha, director of strategic communication at the Women’s Law Project says: “This is not the CPCs of yesteryear. Now they are well-financed, well-coordinated and plugged into the global anti-abortion, anti-LGBTQ movement in ways that the public needs to understand, especially given they’re being **increasingly funded with our tax dollars.**”

In fact, they provide no medical value. Nor do they serve a medical purpose. Yet they increasingly brand themselves as full, comprehensive medical clinics.

More than half of PCs today offer “nondiagnostic” ultrasounds the sole purpose of which is to persuade women not to have an abortion by staff who are rarely medically trained to use them.

They rarely provide contraception or wellness care. Ninety-five percent of CPCs offer no prenatal care and fewer than half even offer referrals for prenatal care. Seventeen percent of CPCs claimed to offer sexuality “education,” typically focused on abstinence, harmful stereotypes about LGBTQ+ youth and religious and shame-based messages.

### DO YOU CARE WHERE YOUR PRIVATE MEDICAL INFORMATION GOES?

Murtha describes CPCs as “warehouses of digital information on people who give sensitive history about their reproductive and sexual health. If they are under the impression that their information is protected by HIPAA, they are wrong. “Close to half of CPCs in the Alliance research were affiliated with large umbrella organizations like Heartbeat International, Birthright or CareNet. “These major organizations use local CPCs to distribute information in a systematic fashion, sharing client data with major organizations, which is especially concerning.” If Roe were to fall, CPCs are positioned to enable the anti-abortion movement to surveille pregnant women and help states enforce abortion bans in the twenty-six states certain or likely to ban abortion.

### PUBLIC TAX DOLLARS

A report released in June by Equity Forward revealed that lawmakers in many states are diverting significant amounts of your taxpayer money to fund CPCs, funds supposed to go to impoverished mothers and children. CPCs in twenty-seven states operate with state funding yet are subject to little or no legislative oversight. State-funded CPCs are more likely to advocate “abortion pill reversal.” More than one-third (34.9 percent) in the Alliance study advertise abortion pill reversal counseling, an unproven, potentially dangerous, experimental, hormonal intervention.

CPCs are funded and run by white evangelicals who target communities of color. At the same time as maternal mortality and morbidity is worsening... particularly for Black women and others of color, increasingly public funding is going into the CPC industry that is deceiving pregnant people, manipulating them, and undermining access to needed health care.

The contrast between government regulation of abortion clinics compared to CPCs is stark. “Abortion clinics that provide evidence-based reproductive health care services are subjected to relentless scrutiny, threats, over-regulation and restrictive laws. By contrast, CPCs have a patently ideological agenda, use blatantly deceptive tactics, systematically promote medical disinformation to pregnant people, and are permitted to operate free of regulation, scrutiny, or accountability...increasingly on your dime.

<b>Number of Abortion Facilities in 1978</b>	<b>2749</b>
<b>Number of Abortion Facilities in 2020</b>	<b>780</b>
<b>Number of CPCs in 2020</b>	<b>2527</b>

### GOOD READS

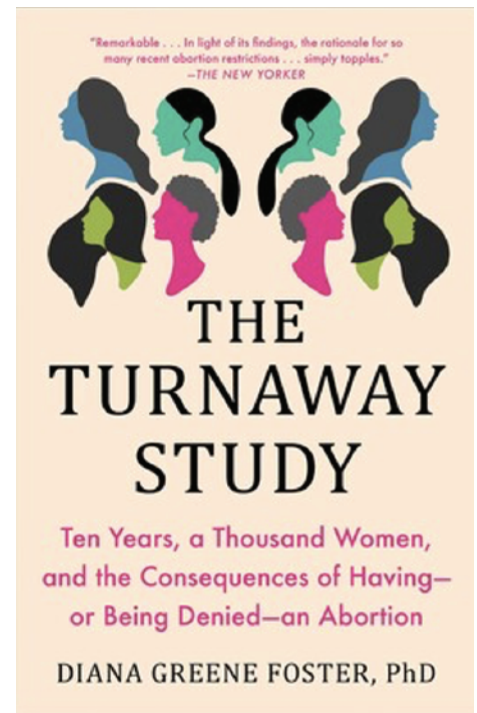
"If you read only one book about democracy," says Gloria Steinem, "The Turnaway Study should be it. Why? Because without the power to make decisions about our own bodies, there is no democracy." What happens when a woman seeking an abortion is turned away? Professor Diana Greene Foster, with a team of psychologists, epidemiologists, demographers, nurses, physicians, economists, sociologists and public health researchers, conducted a ten-year study of one thousand women in America to find out. Foster, a professor at UCSF in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, analyzed the data, looking at the impact on mental and physical health, careers, romantic relationships, and children. You know how all those anti-choice advocates routinely claim that abortion is risky and leads to depression and remorse? Turns out, nope. Five years after women receive an abortion, 99 percent do not regret it.

*The Turnaway Study* offers the first thorough, data-driven examination of the negative consequences for women who cannot get abortions and provides incontrovertible evidence to refute the claim that abortion harms women. Included in the study are ten "engaging, in-depth" first-person narratives, both intimate and revealing. They bring the women and the stories behind the science to life. Called "revelatory, essential" and particularly relevant now by the Huff Post, this book is a must read for those who care about the impact of abortion restrictions on people's lives.

L.W.

*"The battle still rages on over women being able to make their own reproductive health choices...we must remain vigilant in protecting a woman's right to choose, particularly in the face of efforts at the state level to limit the ability of women to access the services the need in making the best decision for their health and families."*

Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA)





# Voices for Choice

## THE ABORTION CRISIS: TEXAS EVADES ROE – MISSISSIPPI CALLS FOR OVERRULING IT

The 49th anniversary of the historic Roe v. Wade decision was January 22, 2022. It may be its last, with access to legal abortion care in crisis. Under Roe and other U.S. Supreme Court rulings, a woman has the right to decide whether to terminate a pregnancy before a fetus is viable (about 24 weeks). The enormity of the threat to that right is now glaringly evident. First, by the Court allowing a Texas law banning abortions after 6 weeks to stay in effect, and second, by its agreeing to reconsider Roe to uphold Mississippi's 15-week abortion ban.

### TEXAS 6-WEEK ABORTION BAN

Texas's ban, SB 8 went into effect September 1, 2021, banning abortion care after fetal cardiac activity is detected, at about 6 weeks.

The law's enforcement is unique. Anyone may sue abortion providers and receive an award of \$10,000 payable by the person sued. Abortion access in Texas has been devastated. After 6 weeks, a woman wanting to terminate her pregnancy has few alternatives other than traveling outside the state.

### MISSISSIPPI 15-WEEK ABORTION BAN

Mississippi's even bolder step was to ban abortion after 15 weeks. Its laws restricting abortion had forced all its abortion clinics to shut down -- except one, Jackson Women's Health.

### HOW THE SUPREME COURT IS RESPONDING

#### *Whole Woman's Health – SB 8 stands*

The Center for Reproductive Rights, the ACLU, Planned Parenthood and others sued Texas to stop SB 8, in *Whole Woman's Health v. Jackson*. The Court refused to stop the law from going into effect, relying largely on the fact that Texas officials are not directly enforcing it.

The Court refused to stop the law from going into effect, relying largely on the fact that Texas officials are not directly enforcing it.

The U.S. Department of Justice also challenged SB 8, in *United States v. State of Texas*. That case came before the Court as it was considering a second appeal in *Whole Women's Health*.

The Court ruled on both cases on December 10. It allowed *Whole Woman's Health* to continue on a very narrow basis (against state licensing officials), while dismissing the State of Texas appeal. Both cases returned to Texas courts to be litigated, with no likelihood of a quick resolution or of the Court stopping enforcement in the meantime.

#### *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health – adverse Supreme Court ruling expected*

Mississippi's 2018 law was stopped from going into effect by lower federal courts in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*. The state appealed *Dobbs* to the Supreme Court in May 2021, asking the Court to revisit Roe and Casey. The Court agreed to decide "whether all pre-viability prohibitions on elective abortions are unconstitutional."

Indications are that all six justices of the Court's conservative majority are receptive to upholding Mississippi's ban. A decision is expected by the end of the Court's term, in June or July. If the Court guts Constitution-based abortion rights under Roe, whether abortion remains legal will most likely be up to each state to decide.

### HOW INDIVIDUAL STATES WOULD RESPOND

If the Court overturns Roe and the states are allowed to decide whether abortion remains legal, how might that play out?

More than half of the states have existing abortion bans that would go into effect or are likely to pass new bans. Abortion would become illegal or inaccessible in about 26 states. Fifteen states, including California, that protect abortion rights may become abortion havens. (See <https://www.guttmacher.org/state-policy/explore/abortion-policy-absence-roe>.)

### LEGISLATIVE SOLUTION: CODIFY ROE V. WADE INTO FEDERAL LAW

The easiest way to preserve abortion rights would be to make Roe federal law. The Women's Health Protection Act (WHPA) would do that. It passed in the House of Representatives in September. But without Republican support, cannot get the 60 votes needed to pass in the Senate.

### CALIFORNIA'S RESPONSE: PROTECT AND IMPROVE ABORTION ACCESS

To be ready to respond to Roe falling, California formed the "California Future of Abortion Council" last fall, supported by Governor Newsom and legislative leaders. The Council developed proposals to ensure greater abortion access and stability in California. [See the Council's recommendations at <https://tinyurl.com/CA-FAB-Council-Report>.] We will support those recommendations made into budget or legislative proposals.

### CITIZENS FOR CHOICE SUPPORTERS:

#### HOW YOU CAN RESPOND

There are actions you can take today to support abortion access: push for WHPA or donate toward the cause, one option being Citizens for Choice. For details, visit <https://citizensforchoice.org/citizens-for-choice-urges-action-fight-the-texas-abortion-ban/>.

Elaine Sierra  
Public Policy Director





# Voices for Choice

## THANK YOU SUPPORTERS!

Thank all of you who so generously gave to Citizens for Choice in 2021! Thanks for sticking with us through a challenging year. We appreciate your gifts in whatever amount you gave and are grateful that many of you were able to increase your level of support.

You enabled us to meet new challenges stemming from our decision, along with Women's Health Specialists, to expand The Clinic's staff, services and hours late last year. The aim of hiring additional staff advanced with two permanent WHS employees, with two more being sought. Operating hours have already increased from part-time two days a week to being open 9-4 Monday through Thursday, and the clinic manager being available some Fridays for pregnancy testing. (For appointments, call: (800) 714-8151.) Expanding access to WHS services will make a huge difference.

The Clinic's services are essential and time-sensitive. Whether seeking pregnancy screening and options counseling, testing or treatment of sexually transmitted infections, advice about the form of birth control that is right for you, or other general reproductive or sexual health concern, our clinic is here for you. You can be assured of affordable, caring and nonjudgmental care to meet your needs and honor your choices.

Individual gifts were sufficient to cover expenses that exceeded \$53,000 in 2021, of which nearly three quarters was for clinic rent and utilities alone. A \$10,000 carryover will help us to cover increasing clinic costs expected this year.

Because of you, supporters, we are confident as we face the new year: that the clinic will flourish and that we will be able to continue all aspects of our work in our community. (The bulk of that work – from publishing this newsletter to carrying on a public policy program to providing outreach and education -- is volunteer-driven and/or supported by grants.)

We humbly ask for your continued support in 2022.



Remember to name Citizens for Choice as the charity of your choice to receive donations as a portion of your orders when you shop using [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com).

## DONORS

Citizens for choice thanks the following individual donors for their generosity and support in the final quarter of 2021.

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**Thank you!**

You help us to support The clinic! provide sexual and reproductive health education and information and promote choice in Nevada county."



## E-scrip Contributions-They Really Help!

Thank you! Contributions may be made to Citizens for Choice through e-scrip at Safeway, Save-Mart, and SPD Markets



## EASY AS ONE, TWO, THREE

Editorial by Lynn Wenzel

The Supremes are in charge now. We understand that. We also understand that without control over our biology, we can never become fully participating members of society. THEY understand that too, especially those who identify as "Evangelical." If a good woman is doing what she should, they say, she should be home, having babies to add to her "quiver." Good women find husbands and do what they are told. They heed the warning. We do not care what you think or even IF you think. Whatever made you think you are an equal partner?! Oh, and we do not really need abortion because...well adoption or whatever.

Thanks for the advice, Amy Coney Barrett. No problem. Easy as one, two, three. Well, giving away a child is not something to treat lightly, despite Barrett's cavalier dismissal of the subject. Contrary to what she suggests, adoption does not always allow women to "quickly move on with their lives." Elizabeth Spiers in The New York Times said she felt compelled to track down her biological mother who, when she became an adult, said she was heartbroken, even four decades later. Children who are adopted feel a loss too, as a form of stress that has lasting effects.

In a recent (19 December) issue of the New York Times, women who had chosen adoption wrote about giving away their children as being "racked with guilt...for decades. Said one woman, "...after going through childbirth...you leave the hospital alone.

Your body knows you have given birth and it wants you to be looking for that baby." Another adoptive parent wrote, "for years my kids cried themselves to sleep wondering why their birth mothers 'gave them away.'" No big deal, right Amy?

The right to a safe, legal abortion is a fundamental question of health care access that concerns women's physical safety, mental and emotional health as well as their personal freedom. Conservative evangelicals who seem to be the ones driving the latest attack on women's rights and the right to abortion, come at the subject from complementarianism, the Biblical philosophy of conservative evangelicals (check out the Supremes, especially Barrett) that masculinity and femininity are ordained by God and that men and women are created to complement, or complete, each other. Complementarians believe that the gender roles found in the Bible are divinely ordained. Complementarianism follows Ephesians 5:21–33 as the model for the home; the husband is the head of the family. The wife has the role of nurturing her children and intentionally, willingly submitting to her husband's leadership. Along with all of this has come "purity culture" and family values based on a foundation of sexism and white supremacy. (An assortment of Neo-Nazi groups marched alongside the "March for Lives" participants in Washington D.C. on February 11.) Eugenics also plays into this philosophy. Procreative, heterosexual marriage is the single most important duty for white evangelicals

which must then be pursued and performed at all costs, even including physical and psychological harm to women. Eugenics, or responsible breeding, for those who do not know, is the belief that the "unfit," i.e., the poor, the disabled, the immigrant, and the person of color—must be weeded out to ensure the population remains majority white, able-bodied middle class, ergo, "Jews will not replace us!" (See Charlottesville, 2017) Married women are shamed for not wanting to have a "quiverfull" of children, especially in circles where ideas of white decline pervade conversation.

As the Supremes are well-aware, though, "categorically eliminating a constitutional right that tens of millions of women have counted on and...more than three-quarters of American support upholding would incite an enormous social and political backlash." One likely outcome is not an outright reversal of Roe but a ruling that preserves the right to abortion in name while making it ever more difficult to obtain.

continued next page...

This is the moment for Americans—women and men—to rise up and say NO! Women will not go back! In the end, nothing short of restoring this fundamental right in all states, for all people is acceptable! We must be fierce and fearless! We can do this!

Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-III)

Kind of like what we have now. Close to five hundred restrictions in one form or another have been passed in the past decade, falling hardest on poor and rural women and women of color. How is that “biblical?” Just asking...

As my grandfather always used to say, “Believe what you want. Just don’t try to make me believe it!” The fight for abortion rights should be centered on equality and liberty, as was done successfully in the fight for LGBTQIA+ rights. It is hard to tell millions of people that they are not entitled to liberty for their own body. Reproductive justice should encompass not only the right to have an abortion but the right to parent and the right to raise healthy, well-fed, and educated children. And the right to decide to have no children at all.

Pretty soon it will be time to hit the streets again because this will ultimately not be decided by the courts but by the citizens in a concerted political campaign “that harnesses public support with a message of openness and pride and a focus on women’s equality and bodily autonomy.” It must include the right to end a pregnancy and the right not to get pregnant in the first place by easy access to contraceptives, as well as a focus on public policy. Success will be about “the impact of...regular people and their power to change the way we think about—and defend—our most fundamental rights.” Now take that to church!



“Many young people now don’t know a world without Roe v. Wade—I do. We cannot go back to the days of criminalized abortions. This is about life or death. It’s about racial, economic, and gender equality. It’s about people having autonomy over decisions they make about their bodies.

Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA)



# Voices for Choice



## CALIFORNIA PUBLIC POLICY: 2021 WRAP-UP

Citizens for Choice saw success in advancing its 2021 legislative priorities. Among those that became law in California were bills that:

- Address the greater maternal mortality rates of Black, indigenous and other women of color with additional supports and services (SB 65).
- Improve access to early abortion care using telehealth (AB 32 and budget).
- Address the statewide epidemic of sexually transmitted diseases (SB 306).
- Provide compensation to victims of forced sterilizations (AB 1007).
- Increase subsidies for pregnant foster youth (AB 366)
- Provide supplemental paid sick leave related to COVID-19 (AB 84/SB 95)

A few 2021 proposals and issues stalled last year. Several are likely to advance in 2022. They include:

- Making abortion care and contraception more affordable and accessible (SB 245 and SB 523).
- Extending supplemental paid sick leave related to COVID-19 (2022 budget proposal).

As the article on Roe relates, expanding abortion access will be a key priority for us this year, focused on the recommendations of the California Future of Abortion Council's recommendations. As new bills are introduced, we will review them and establish our 2022 priorities. Working with reproductive health and justice allies, we will continue our advocacy to make California the reproductive freedom state that we aspire to.

Aside from legislation, a victory in the legal arena came early this year, when Attorney General Rob Bonta clarified in a law enforcement alert that, under California law, women should not be criminally prosecuted based on the loss of a pregnancy. Last year we supported efforts to free several California women imprisoned after experiencing stillbirths while addicted to drugs. We agree with mental health experts that treatment is a more effective and humane response, and with legal experts that the law involved was never intended to apply to women because of adverse pregnancy outcomes.

With your support, we will continue to push for freedom of choice in pregnancy options and greater access to reproductive healthcare and information generally. Our advocacy complements the other work we do, supporting our local clinic and fostering sexual and reproductive health education. To stay informed about our public policy advocacy, visit <https://citizensforchoice.org/advocacy/>.

Elaine Sierra  
Public Policy Director



### ***Gifts in any amount are always welcome!***

Each donation helps us support *the Clinic!*—utilities, rent, supplies—as well as social media outreach, CA public policy such as the Family and Medical Insurance Leave (FAMILY) Act, and community advocacy, among many other activities and services toward women's reproductive health.

There is a donate button on the website. If you prefer, you may send a check to:  
Citizens for Choice, P.O. Box 3525, Grass Valley, CA 95945.  
Please be sure to include your address, email and phone on your check.

***The board of Citizens for Choice is grateful for your generosity!***