If you really care about Religious Liberty
Then you should care about Reproductive Justice

Kelli K. Garcia
National Women’s Law Center
202-588-5180 ◊ kgarcia@nwlc.org ◊ www.nwlc.org
About this series

- Developed to address intersection between Reproductive Justice and other progressive issues.

- Introduces Reproductive Justice to new communities that may only know of reproductive rights advocacy that focuses on abortion and contraception.

- Educates on RJ’s three components in a context with which other progressives are familiar.
So far includes…

- Religious Liberty (September 10)
- Pregnancy Discrimination (October 1)
- Environmental Justice (October 22)
- HIV/AIDS (November 12)

Please let us know if there are other issues you’d like to see explored through an RJ lens!
The Reproductive Justice Movement was Created as a Response to Movements that Failed to Support Women’s Decisions to Bear and Raise Children
Religious Refusals & Reproductive Justice

- Religious discrimination has been used by:
  - Hospitals and physician practices refusing to provide reproductive healthcare services.
  - Pharmacies refusing to dispense emergency contraception (EC).
  - Employers refusing to cover contraception in employee health insurance.

- Religious refusals are not about religious freedom. They are about imposing one’s religious views on someone else.
Religious Refusals Harm those the RJ Movement Seeks to Empower

- Women who are denied needed health care bear the burden of the additional costs and health risks of going elsewhere.
- Although religious refusals jeopardize all women’s health, they have the greatest effect on women with the fewest resources and who face the most barriers in accessing care.
Thank you!

Kara Loewentheil
Public Rights/Private Conscience Project
Center for Gender & Sexuality Law
Columbia Law School
kara.loewentheil@law.columbia.edu

Leila Abolfazli
National Women’s Law Center
labolfazli@nwlc.org

Kelli K. Garcia
National Women’s Law Center
kgarcia@nwlc.org
www.nwlc.org