

SPEAKING YOUR VALUES, BUILDING CONNECTIONS

Affirming Shared, Positive Values for Abortion Care

Over the past decades, anti-abortion policymakers have worked to erode access to abortion care, making it more difficult, if not impossible, for people to get an abortion, especially in certain parts of the country.

While constituents want their elected officials to acknowledge these attacks, they need more. It is important for support to be framed as proactive and affirmative, centering shared values on abortion. To make progress, it is essential to affirm our positive vision and values related to abortion. We need to let constituents know what we are **FOR**.

The tested messages here are meant to be guideposts rather than “talking points.” **These guideposts provide a durable roadmap to strengthen your own authentic values and voice — and ultimately, your impact.**

CONTACT INFORMATION

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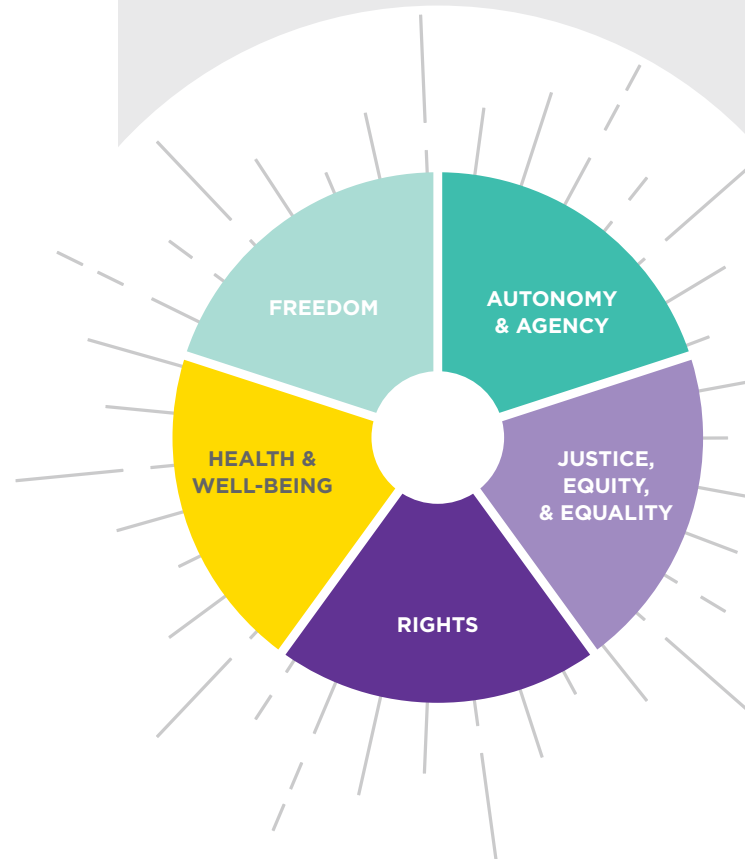
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SHARED VALUES

When it comes to expressing positive values for abortion, the following deeply held core values drive opinion about abortion across race and political beliefs.



Recognizing that transgender and non-binary people are among those who have abortions, our talking points have a mix of gendered and non-gendered language. Research has shown little impact on opinion when using non-gendered language.



THE PROBLEMS

Lawmakers have passed more than 450 unnecessary abortion restrictions in the past 10 years.

Forcing someone to continue a pregnancy against their will is a violation of their rights and their basic humanity.

These restrictions were designed to control, dehumanize, and criminalize women.

Provide specific examples, such as:

- 1) Forcing someone to drive hundreds of miles because of clinic shut-down laws;
- 2) The additional cost of hotels, food, time away from work, and childcare — especially for multiple, medically unnecessary visits.

THE SOLUTION

We need to ensure that all people have access to the reproductive health care that they need, including access to abortion.

VALUES-BASED MESSAGES THAT WORK

AUTONOMY & AGENCY:

- One of the most important life decisions we will ever make is whether to become a parent.
- We should be able to make decisions about pregnancy and abortion free from fear or politicians who shame and try to control us. Lawmakers have no place interfering in someone else's pregnancy decisions.
- Let's trust people to make decisions that are best for their lives and their bodies.

FREEDOM

- We aren't truly free unless we can control our own bodies, lives, and futures. Our laws should protect our rights, not try to control and dehumanize us.
- All people should be able to control their own bodies.
- Let's commit to a future where communities thrive. A future where we all have the freedom to control our own bodies, safely care for our families, and live with dignity.

HEALTH & WELL-BEING

- Making sure everyone can live a safe and healthy life means ensuring people have access to health care, including abortion care. Part of our job as members of congress is to put people's health, safety, and real-life needs first.
- Living a safe and healthy life is a basic right that includes being able to get abortion and other reproductive health care.
- When people have access to a full range of health care services, including birth control, abortion, and maternity care, they are healthier and their families thrive.

JUSTICE & EQUITY

- Our nation is in the midst of a racial reckoning and transformation. We must unite against racism and discrimination. This includes ending policies that deny people equitable access to healthcare, including abortion.
- If we are truly committed to dismantling systems of oppression, our policies must ensure access to abortion care. That's one part of building a more just and equitable society.
- Despite abortion care being legal, it is not available to everyone. Those harmed the most by restrictions are Black, Indigenous, and other people of color, and people working to make ends meet.
- Attacks on abortion rights cause the greatest harm to women of color. They already face some of the most insurmountable barriers to abortion care.
- Ensuring that everyone can get reproductive health care, including abortion, is part of addressing racial and economic injustice. That's why I want our policies and budgets to ensure affordable and available abortion care.

WOMEN'S EQUALITY AND RIGHTS

- Women can't be truly equal if they don't have control over their own bodies and reproductive lives, including the decision about whether to have an abortion.
- As a lawmaker, it's my job to trust women, see that they are treated fairly and equally, wherever they live.

DOES YOUR FAITH GUIDE YOUR POLICY-MAKING?

Faith as an approach when
speaking your Values



While Faith is not a Value, talking about your Values from a Faith perspective can be especially resonant if it is authentic to your lived experience.

SOME EXAMPLES ON HOW TO DO THAT ARE:

“As a religious person myself, I support the right of people to consult their own faith and conscience as they make decisions about pregnancy and parenting.”

*“ My faith calls me to...
...trust women
...support women and families as they make parenting decisions.
...respect that decisions about becoming a parent are sacred and personal.
...respect that people have the moral agency to make these important life decisions
...ensure that each person can live safely and with access to medical care.*

“In a just and righteous society...[vision/values]”

“My faith calls me to believe in the inherent worth and dignity of all people—and therefore I must ensure they are treated equally.”

“I believe each person must be able to follow their own beliefs, moral code, and conscience when making important life decisions. It’s not my place as a lawmaker to judge or interfere with anyone’s moral decisions.”

“Our job as lawmakers is not to punish or shame those who have decided to have an abortion. Instead we should make sure they are supported and treated with compassion.”

STANDOUT PHRASES

Here are some phrases that resonate with people when talking about ensuring access to abortion:

- **Trust** people to make the decision that is best for their bodies.
- **Women** must be **treated fairly and equally** wherever they live
- All **women** have **access** to the **reproductive healthcare** that they need and deserve including access to abortion.
- **Support the right of women to consult their own conscience**
- All **people deserve to control their own bodies**
- Ensure **affordable and available** abortion care
- They **should not be punished or shamed** for having an abortion, but **supported** and treated with **compassion**.
- Ensure **affordable** and **available** abortion care
- Greatest **harm to women of color**
- Black and brown women, women with low incomes
- Control, dehumanize, and criminalize women
- Women are people
- Abortion is a **decision a woman makes** about **her life** with her faith and her doctor.
- Only she knows how to make this decision
- There is **no place** for me or anybody in Congress in this decision