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To: Interested Parties

From: NARAL Pro-Choice America Research Team

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Memo: Six Biggest Threats to Reproductive Freedom in Arizona

Cathi Herrod and the Center for Arizona Policy

Cathi Herrod is the president of the Center for Arizona Policy (CAP), a far-right, anti-abortion group. For the past 28 years, she has spearheaded attacks against reproductive freedom in Arizona. Herrod has [unchecked influence](#) over Arizona policy and has [unparalleled access](#) to lawmakers. Herrod and CAP frequently spread [disinformation](#) about the [safety](#) of abortion care and [wrongly claimed](#) that emergency contraception causes an abortion. Herrod repeatedly [defends](#) restrictions and [barriers](#) to abortion care and is a vocal advocate for the reinstatement of [Arizona's pre-territorial](#) abortion ban- which would criminalize abortion providers. Herrod [mischaracterized](#) Governor Hobbs' investments into Title X as "defunding" resources for pregnant people. CAP and Herrod have been behind several anti-abortion bills during the 2023 session, most notably [SB 1600](#), which includes medical [disinformation](#) about "born alive" fetuses- a term not rooted in actual [science](#). Herrod and CAP continue to lobby for a far-right agenda in Arizona that is not compatible with the values of Arizonans.

Rep. Matt Gress (LD-4-R)

During the 2023 legislative session, Gress introduced several bills that would [purposefully](#) codify "fetal personhood" language into Arizona law under the guise of "[supporting women](#)" via legislation that would define when life began in order to establish legal and economic benefits for fetuses. These "fetal personhood" bills are especially dangerous since they could potentially ban abortion, IVF, and some contraception methods. Gress [collaborated](#) with anti-abortion organizations like CAP on HB 2502 to introduce a backdoor total abortion ban. Gress revealed his true intentions when he [admitted](#) that he [supports](#) "fetal personhood" in defense of his sponsored legislation. He inaccurately frames his anti-abortion stance as "[empowering](#)" and "[supporting](#)" pregnant people and families to deflect from his agenda's harm to families and freedom in Arizona. Rep. Matt Gress and his hidden anti-abortion agenda threaten reproductive freedoms in Arizona.

Rep. Alexander Kolodin (LD-3-R)

Throughout the 2023 legislative session, Representative Alexander Kolodin [supported](#) anti-abortion efforts to codify "fetal personhood" language into law and amplified attacks on reproductive freedoms. He [encouraged](#) the passage of a bill that was based on blatant falsehoods regarding abortion care later in pregnancy. Kolodin has [repeatedly called](#) for the Arizona courts to enforce the pre-territorial 1864 total abortion ban and claimed that abortion "[cheapened life](#)." He was a driving force behind litigation to overturn the 2020 election, supported the fraudulent Arizona election "audit," and [represented Clean Elections USA](#)- a



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far-right group that “monitored” ballot drop boxes during the 2022 election- in court. Rep. Kolodin’s anti-freedom agenda is in direct opposition to the values of the people in Arizona.

Rep. Jacqueline Parker (LD-16-R)

During the 2022 legislative session, Parker sponsored a [total ban on abortion care](#) and attempted to [criminalize](#) medication abortion. Rep. Parker previously claimed it was “[not unreasonable](#)” to criminalize abortion care providers. She called Governor Hobbs “[evil](#)” and “[radical](#)” for her reproductive freedom stance and mischaracterized her vetos of anti-abortion legislation as “[infanticide](#)” and “[condoning violence](#).” She misrepresented state funding for Title X as “[stealing](#)” from pregnant people. In 2021, Parker [blocked](#) the Arizona House from bringing the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to a vote. It’s clear Representative Parker’s anti-abortion propaganda does not reflect the 9 and 10 Arizonans who agree that families should have the freedom to decide how and when they start or grow a family, free from political interference.

Alliance Defending Freedom

Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) is a conservative evangelical legal group that works to restrict reproductive freedom and human rights worldwide. ADF is located in Scottsdale, Arizona, and has been instrumental in attempting to instate anti-abortion legislation such as the [pre-territorial ban](#), “[fetal personhood](#)” statute, and [legislation that creates](#) forced interrogation laws- which target the reasons that a pregnant person may decide to seek abortion care- through Arizona’s courts. ADF [drafted and defended](#) Mississippi’s unconstitutional 15 week ban on abortion that led to the overturning of Roe. Additionally, ADF is the [legal group behind](#) the unfounded suit against the Food and Drug Administration that seeks to ban medication abortion care. In this case, a decision would have a devastating impact on reproductive freedoms in Arizona and nationwide. ADF’s influence and desire for power and control threaten the basic freedoms of Arizonans.

Sen. Anthony Kern (LD-27-R)

Senator Anthony Kern amplified anti-abortion narratives by misleadingly downplaying attempts to lock “fetal personhood” language into law as “[common sense](#).” He spread [disinformation](#) to support legislation that would interfere in private, family medical decisions. Previously, he [fearmongered](#) that Democrats would legalize “infanticide” and criticized comprehensive sexual education. Kern is not only a threat to reproductive freedoms in Arizona, but his record demonstrates that he also threatens LGBTQ+ freedoms and democracy. As a state representative, Kern [introduced legislation](#) creating baseless barriers to gender-affirming care. He weaponized his position on the Arizona House Rules Committee to block legislation that would protect the LGBTQ+ community. During the 2023 session, he sponsored two bills [criminalizing drag performances](#). Kern, a [known election denier](#), worked to [subvert](#) the 2020 election and attended the [January 6 insurrection](#). As long as Senator Kern remains in the Arizona Senate, he poses a threat to the bodily autonomy and freedom of all Arizonans.