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To: Interested Parties

From: NARAL Pro-Choice America Research Team

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### **Memo: Nevada Anti-Abortion Movement Bets on Disinformation to Attack Reproductive Freedom**

During the 2023 legislative session, the anti-abortion movement in Nevada relied on incendiary talking points and outright lies to attack reproductive freedom legislation. Nevada's anti-abortion extremists know their agenda is out-of-touch with voters' values, so they depend on fearmongering about the safety and popularity of reproductive health care, including abortion care, to try to manipulate voters. Here's how anti-abortion legislators and activists amplified disinformation in an attempt to distract Nevadans from their agenda to ban abortion.

- **Anti-abortion legislators and groups exploited Nevada's critical role as an abortion access point in the Southwest to fearmonger about people coming to the state for essential care.** These extremists attempted to instill fear in voters by claiming that the state would become a hot spot for "[abortion tourism](#)" and [sex trafficking](#). They attempted to frame protections for abortion care as efforts to make Nevada a "[safe haven](#)" for "[predators and abusers](#)" rather than acknowledging how legislation that protects access benefits pregnant people. Anti-abortion lawmakers accused reproductive freedom-related legislation of "shielding" "[pedophiles](#)" and "[sex traffickers](#)." These narratives are not rooted in truth and are blatant attempts to malign access to abortion care.
- **The anti-abortion movement railed against young people's access to reproductive care as a political ploy to fire up conservatives around so-called "parental rights."** Throughout the 2023 legislative session, the opposition exaggerated that expanded access to contraception and abortion care for young people was "[dangerous](#)" and posed "[substantial health risks](#)." They alleged that reproductive freedom "[threatens parental rights](#)" and voiced support for mandatory notification and consent laws that force young people into dangerous situations. Mandatory parental involvement undermines young people's bodily autonomy and can force them into a shaming and traumatizing court process.
- **Republican activists and politicians peddled medical disinformation about the safety of reproductive health care.** Anti-abortion lawmakers alleged that contraception was "[experimental](#)" and that abortion care resulted in "[long-term physical harm](#)." They also accused reproductive healthcare providers of "[coercing](#)" people into care and prioritizing [profits](#). Nevada Families for Freedom, a state-based anti-abortion organization, directly attacked abortion providers by calling them



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“[doctor-butchers](#).” To that end, they falsely claimed that state bills like SB 131 would allow for “[shoddy medical standards](#)” at reproductive healthcare facilities to justify anti-abortion restrictions on abortion care.

- **To deceive voters, anti-abortion activists spread falsehoods about SJR 7, the bill to amend the Nevada Constitution to include reproductive freedom protections.** In the 2023 legislative session, abortion opponents resorted to [mischaracterizing](#) SJR 7 as “[subverting democracy](#)” to distract from the reality that this resolution would allow voters to reaffirm their support for reproductive freedom. They [promoted](#) misleading and inflammatory narratives that the bill would allow for “[tax-payer funded abortion until the point of birth](#)” and “[infanticide](#)” to confuse voters about the bill’s contents. Anti-abortion lawmakers sought to downplay threats to reproductive freedom by misleadingly arguing that the overturning of Roe did not impact Nevadans. Anti-abortion activists [exaggerate](#) the abortion care landscape in the state as “[extreme](#)” and “[unrestricted](#).”

Following the 2023 legislation session, Governor Lombardo is taking a page from Nevada anti-abortion extremists’ handbook and relying on disinformation to justify his attacks against reproductive freedom. In June 2023, he quietly removed vital public warnings about fake health centers (FHCs) from the Department of Health and Human Services’ website, [claiming](#) that these warnings “mischaracterized” FHCs. In his [veto](#) of the Right to Contraception Act, Governor Lombardo baselessly fearmongered that the legislation would allow school nurses to refer students to abortion care. Anti-abortion extremists in Nevada resort to outright lies because they know their stance is unpopular with the [4 in 5 Nevadans](#) who want the government to stay out of personal decisions about reproductive health care, including abortion.