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To: Interested Parties

From: NARAL Pro-Choice America Research Team

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Republicans Extraordinarily Out of Step With Americans on Abortion, Including Their Own Voters

Coming off a [historically](#) poor midterm [election](#) performance in 2022, Republican legislators continue to be out of step with the [majority](#) of Americans who support access to legal abortion—including huge pluralities of their own voters. Time and again, voters from across the political spectrum have [rejected](#) the unpopular agenda of Republican lawmakers and their [dark money](#) backers. In the aftermath of the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* decision, reproductive freedom champions and voters in red, blue, and purple states [defeated](#) attempts by anti-abortion lawmakers to ban and restrict abortion care.

Reproductive freedom [won](#) in Kansas, Idaho, Montana, Kentucky, Wisconsin, and beyond. Anti-abortion extremists had so little success in taking the issue to voters that they are now trying to change the rules and [make it harder](#) for voters to protect abortion access through [ballot initiatives](#). Republicans’ [extreme abortion agenda](#) has gone so far that even elected members of their own party have had enough. Some Republican legislators are [pushing back](#) and [breaking with](#) their own party in the face of their [radical](#) abortion policy positions.

Republican extremism has not stopped at the state level with extreme bans and restrictions. Predictably, anti-abortion bad actors have not been content to let Americans and the lawmakers they elected protect abortion care. They are now threatening abortion access across the country and working to overturn the will of the people in states that have voted to protect abortion rights. Despite the overwhelming [unpopularity](#) of their attempts to [restrict abortion](#), these legislators and their allies are working to block access to medication abortion through the courts.

Because they know they don’t have [majority support](#) on abortion, the Republican Party and the Radical Right have long worked to take control of the courts and subvert our democracy in order to implement their agenda. Anti-abortion extremists’ [extensive plotting](#) in *Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine v. U.S. Food and Drug Administration (AHM)* constitutes a calculated attempt to ban medication abortion as we know it—and it tracks with their playbook. The case seeks to revoke the FDA’s approval of mifepristone, one of two medications typically used in a medication abortion, despite the medication’s proven safety and effectiveness.

Even when the lower courts initially [ruled](#) in their favor in *AHM v. FDA*, Republicans around the country largely remained silent and avoided touting their “victory” because they know even their own constituents [don’t support](#) their attempts to restrict abortion. An incredible [51%](#) of self-identified Republicans think that this unfounded federal lawsuit was politically motivated. Support is falling even within their own party so in order to retain support from their base and extremist donors they just [avoid](#) the discussion entirely.



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Americans Resoundingly Support Maintaining Access to Medication Abortion

Americans across the political spectrum support continued access to medication abortion in the wake of Republican attempts to revoke FDA approval of this safe and effective:

- 51% of **self-identified Republicans** said they believed the district court ruling in *AHM v. FDA*, which would potentially revoke FDA approval of mifepristone (one of two medications typically used in medication abortion care), was politically motivated (Reuters/Ipsos, [April 2023](#))
- 64% support allowing women to legally use prescription abortion medication to end an early pregnancy at home (Navigator, April [2023](#))
 - This includes 82% of Democrats, 61% of Independents, **45% of Republicans** as well as 65% of Black voters, 67% of Hispanic voters, 64% of white voters and 77% of AAPI voters.
- 72% of Americans oppose laws that make it illegal to use or receive through the mail FDA-approved medication abortion pills (PRRI, [February 2023](#)).
- 66% of Americans believe that a federal judge should allow medication abortion to remain legal, with only 20% disagreeing and 14% reporting being unsure. This includes 84% of Democrats, 67% of Independents, and **49% of Republicans** (EMAA Project, [February 2023](#)).
- 70% of voters found it convincing that “having an abortion is a personal decision that should be between a patient, their doctor, and their family: prescription abortion medication allows people to end early pregnancies safely and more privately.” **This includes 66% of Independents and 55% of GOP voters** (Navigator, April [2023](#)).

Voters, Including Republicans, Reject National Abortion Bans

Anti-abortion Republicans’ push for abortion bans is out of touch with the will of the people they were elected to represent:

- By a more than 2-to-1 margin, Americans reject the idea that 15-week bans are a “reasonable compromise.” Just 26% of voters think that 15-week bans are “reasonable” (Change Research, [April 2023](#)).
- 70% of voters oppose one-size-fits-all abortion bans. This includes overwhelming majorities of Democratic and independent voters, **and nearly half of Republicans** —as well as over two-thirds of every racial or ethnic group (Change Research, [April 2023](#)).
- Voters across party, gender, and racial lines don’t want politicians interfering with decisions about abortion care: When reminded of recent rollbacks on access to



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abortion, **73% of voters agree that things have gone too far** and that politicians should stop interfering with decisions about abortion care. **Even a majority (51%) of those who voted for Donald Trump in 2020 agree** (Change Research, [April 2023](#)).

- 69% opposed banning abortion nationwide. This includes 87% of Democrats, 73% of Independents, and **48% of Republicans** (Data for Progress, [February 2023](#)).
- 64% oppose banning abortions nationwide. Only 28% support a national abortion ban (36-point margin). That margin for opposition is 68 points among Democrats and 45 points among Independents and **19 points among moderate Republicans** (Navigator, [January 2023](#)).
- 63% of voters are concerned that with Republicans in control of the U.S. House of Representatives that they could ban abortion nationwide (Navigator, [April 2023](#)).
- 62% of voters agree that attacks on medication abortion are part of a broader agenda to ban abortion nationwide. This includes 78% of Democrats, 57% of Independents, and **46% of Republicans** (Navigator, [April 2023](#)).

Americans Support Reproductive Freedom

Americans overwhelmingly support access to abortion care and believe pregnant people should have the freedom to decide when and how to grow a family with their doctors and those they love and trust:

- Four in five Americans say abortion should be legal (79%) with just 13% saying abortion should never be legal (IPSOS/All Above All, [January 2023](#)).
- 78% say the decision of whether or not a woman can have an abortion should be left to a woman and her doctor (ABC News/Washington Post Poll, [May 2023](#)).
- 81% of Americans felt that banning abortion nationwide with no exceptions is extreme including 98% of Democrats, 86% of Independents, and **59% of Republicans** (Future Majority, [May 2023](#))
 - 72% of Americans felt that 6-week abortion bans were extreme, including 97% of Democrats, 78% of Independents, and **41% of Republicans**.