

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM FOR ALL

To: Interested Parties

From: Reproductive Freedom for All

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How To Respond to Tough Questions and Avoid Anti-Abortion Traps

With disinformation, charged rhetoric, and flat-out lies flying around about abortion care, candidates and elected officials, as well as advocates, need clear and compelling language to avoid anti-abortion traps and reiterate shared values.

Dispel the myth underlying the claim and challenge the claim

Question/ false assertion to expect	How you should refute/what you should say	What you should <u>AVOID</u>	What the anti-abortion question is trying to accomplish
Do you support any kind of restriction on abortion?	<p>Shift the conversation back to WHO should have the freedom to decide.</p> <p>Pregnant people/women and their doctors should be making these personal decisions, not politicians.</p> <p>We know these laws do not work as intended because there are too many circumstances where a woman may need an abortion but not be able to get one.</p>	Getting into debates about when and how to draw the line on when abortion should and should not be available.	<p>Trying to paint our side as extreme and attack you for refusing to answer the question.</p> <p>Deflect from the right's unpopular efforts to ban all abortion and punish women and pregnant people.</p>
Why do Democrats support abortion up until the moment of birth? How can you support abortion after viability?	<p>Be firm and direct, and don't pivot away from answering:</p> <p>"There is no such thing. It does not happen. The reality is that abortion later in pregnancy is complex and rare, and doctors need to be able to recommend the best possible care for their patients."</p> <p>When politicians restrict access to this care, they force women to wait until they are near death before receiving basic medical care.</p>	<p>Don't accept their terms or say "partial-birth," "late-term," "infanticide" or "born-alive."</p> <p>Don't repeat "abortion moments before birth" -- this does not happen!</p>	<p>Trying to paint our side as extreme and attack you for refusing to answer the question.</p> <p>They want to keep the focus off of pregnant people and shift attention to fetuses.</p>

	<p>Women and people who need abortions should be able to make these decisions with their doctors in all circumstances free from political interference.</p>		
<p>Do you think there needs to be a limit on abortion? Where do you draw the line (or where do you think there should be a line drawn)?</p>	<p>Shift the conversation back to WHO decides. Pregnant people and their doctors should be making these personal decisions, not politicians.</p> <p>One-size-fits-all bans and restrictions do not work and harm people and families in the process.</p>	<p>Getting into debates about when and how to draw the line on when abortion should and should not be available.</p>	<p>Trying to paint our side as extreme and forcing an arbitrary line to be drawn.</p>
<p>Exceptions are there for a reason. Women and pregnant people who are raped, victims of incest, or whose lives are in danger can still get abortions when they need to.</p>	<p>Exceptions do not work and do not always exist in practice. Every person's circumstance is unique and one-size fits all laws don't take them into account.</p> <p>Take the case of the young child in Ohio, or the women in Florida – all should have been able to access the care they needed. All were denied. That's proof that exceptions exist in name only.</p> <p>These bans and restrictions are preventing women with life-threatening medical conditions from getting abortions until they are near death. And they're forcing women who have been raped or abused to be retraumatized.</p>	<p>The premise is that just because exceptions technically exist they are actually accessible in practice.</p> <p>These restrictions and bans interfere with doctors and medical providers' ability to provide the necessary and often life-saving care to their patients.</p>	<p>Trying to appear moderate and less extreme by conceding there are some instances where abortion care is acceptable and should be available.</p>
<p>What do you think about Republicans/Trump moderating their position on abortion.</p>	<p>Reiterate that Republicans and Trump are trying to ban all abortion and will pass a national ban if given the chance.</p> <p>House Republicans just nominated an abortion extremist who has supported abortion bans as Speaker of the House. That tells you everything you need to know.</p> <p>Any equivocating or</p>	<p>Conceding that this is a moderate position or that these so-called moderate positions are the ultimate aims of anti-abortion extremists. They want to ban all abortion.</p>	<p>Trying to paint their side as reasonable, moderate, and willing to compromise.</p> <p>Distract from and hide their extremism.</p>

	softening of their position is because they know their true aims to ban all abortion are unpopular.		
15 week abortion restrictions are not bans, regardless of what abortion extremists say. They are commonsense regulations and a reasonable compromise.	<p>A ban is a ban.</p> <p>70% of voters oppose one-size-fits all abortion bans, including overwhelming majorities of Democratic and Independent voters, but also nearly half of Republicans</p> <p>By a nearly 2 to 1 margin, voters reject the idea that 15-week bans are a reasonable compromise.</p> <p>These laws are pushing doctors who perform abortions out of the state and preventing women with life-threatening medical conditions from getting abortions until they are near death. And they're forcing women who have been raped or abused to be retraumatized. There is nothing common sense about that.</p>	Getting into debates about when and how to draw the line on when abortion should and should not be available.	<p>Trying to paint their side as reasonable, moderate, and willing to compromise.</p> <p>Distract from and hide their extremism.</p>
Many polls show that voters do want some sort of regulations on abortion. Why shouldn't there be a middleground?	<p>A ban is a ban.</p> <p>Americans overwhelmingly (nearly 80%) believe that decisions about abortion should be left to the pregnant person/woman and their doctor.</p> <p>73% of voters believe abortion restrictions have gone too far.</p> <p>Women and families, NOT politicians, need to be able to use their own judgment and consult with medical experts to decide if abortion is the right option for them.</p>	Getting into debates about when and how to draw the line on when abortion should and should not be available.	<p>Trying to paint their side as reasonable, moderate, and willing to compromise.</p> <p>Distract from and hide their extremism.</p>

Reiterate support for abortion with a values statement

We can never fully know the full scope of a pregnant person's circumstances but we do know this: **It is wrong for politicians to interfere with someone's personal, private medical decisions when it comes to reproductive healthcare and abortion.** It is essential that decisions about how to expand or start a family are made by people and their doctors.

I stand with the 8 in 10 Americans who support continued access to legal abortion.

Pivot to the impacts of bans and the failure of exceptions

Republicans are trying to pass abortion bans that would prevent people, even those facing life-threatening and heartbreaking circumstances, from accessing abortion.

We have seen [example](#) after [example](#) of women & pregnant people who need reproductive care being denied access to abortion or life-saving care because of these extreme abortion bans and restrictions. We know these laws do not work as intended because there are too many circumstances where a woman may need an abortion but not be able to get one.

Women and families, NOT politicians, need to be able to use their own judgment and consult with medical experts to decide if abortion is the right decision for them.