

# Doctors For Abortion Access

## Organizing Toolkit

### Background

**Doctors For Abortion Access** is a National Day of Action demanding an end to the current and future criminalization of doctors and health care providers who perform lifesaving abortion care.

On November 3<sup>rd</sup> doctors, across the country, are organizing themselves in front of state houses and symbolic buildings. Doctors are asking that politicians stop creating laws that incarcerate doctors, healthcare providers, women and people who can get pregnant because they seek or give abortions. Doctors simply want to be able to do their jobs.

### Goals

- **Center the voices of women, other impacted folks, doctors and healthcare professionals and highlight the horrific laws in place post Roe decision that aim to criminalize our communities.**
- **Build solidarity** and keep the focus leading up to the midterms understanding that this is an issue that can mobilize women and allies across the country in a critical election.

### Date

**Thursday, November 3rd, 2022**

### **WANT TO SUPPORT IN YOUR LOCAL TOWN OR CITY?**

Host your own event or engage in an act of solidarity!

### **Here are some ideas!**

- Take some friends to your local Congressperson/Senator's Office and take a picture outside their office with a poster with a message such as: "We Stand With #DoctorsForAbortionAccess so should YOU!" (you can add the name of your Elected Representative and/or stand where the Signage of their office is visible).
- You can also go outside a statehouse building, symbolic monument, and /or clinic. They are good for optics. Don't forget to take pictures and/or share a short video message and use the hashtag! Would be great to also say what city/state you are in!
- Ask your colleagues to share short testimonies and/or messages of solidarity and post them on their social media! Again - do not forget to use the hashtag #DoctorsForAbortionAccess. We want to encourage our doctors to stay brave and courageous and your messages of support would mean so much.
- Hold a vigil outside any of the location examples above and give space to women, other impacted people and healthcare professionals to share their stories. We must keep the momentum! We must keep reminding our communities of the dangers we are in if more laws like these go into effect and how they will impact the already marginalized and the healthcare professionals who want to serve them and do their jobs!

- Write a Letter to The Editor for your local paper stating your support for healthcare providers and your opposition to the criminalization of doctors who just want to do their jobs and ensure safe access to abortions.

## Permits

If you decide to organize a larger event and you believe you may require a permit, you can reach out to your local law enforcement or city agency to notify them about a pending mobilization.

**This does not mean you need a permit to mobilize.**

If doctors/supporters stay on the sidewalks and obey traffic and pedestrian signals, their activity is constitutionally protected even without a permit (though local law enforcement may not always respect this principle). Speaker systems and equipment usually require a permit. We recommend checking in with your local agency to ensure the safety of participants in the event of any confrontations or scenarios with counter protestors.

## Talking Points

**Abortion is a personal, medical decision that our patients deserve to make, no matter who they are or where they live. People, not politicians, should make these decisions.**

- Abortion is part of reproductive and maternal health care, as well as miscarriage care, and every person and every pregnancy is unique. One-size-fits-all laws don't work in reality, because every medical case is unique.
- The ultimate goal of anti-abortion legislators **is to pass a nationwide abortion ban**, part of a larger effort to control our bodies and our lives.

**We know firsthand that abortion laws with exceptions don't work in practice - whether in cases of rape, incest, or when a pregnant person's life is in danger.**

- State laws that ban and restrict abortion leave health care providers like us with our hands tied.
- A law that forces us to stand by and let pregnant people suffer, to the point of near death before we can provide essential medical care, is unjust and immoral.

**Restricting abortion care also impacts miscarriage care, and puts people suffering a miscarriage in harm's way.**

- Just like with abortions, One out of four pregnancies end in a miscarriage. Even if you don't know it, someone you know and love has suffered a miscarriage.

- **Abortion bans can turn pregnancy loss into a crime scene.** When abortion care is restricted, even the act of having a miscarriage can come under scrutiny, with pregnant people needing to prove that their loss wasn't a medication abortion. There have already been numerous examples across the U.S. of people being arrested after pregnancy loss for this reason.

**As doctors, we took a Hippocratic Oath to protect our patients, and that should be our guidepost. Instead, abortion bans are threatening our ability to provide critical health care, and forcing us to seek legal counsel even in clear emergencies. Delays or even denial of urgent medical care are the inevitable result of this hostile climate.**

- Banning abortion creates a public health crisis AND a human rights crisis.
- Banning abortion harms all of us. Someone you love may need an abortion one day, or already has. We need to be able to count on our medical providers to give us the best care possible without facing legal threats from politicians.
- These threats sound extreme, but they are real, and people are already hurting. We know simply by looking at states and other countries that have banned abortion that **doctors and patients will be criminalized for their health care decisions** when abortion is banned.

**As healthcare providers, we are here speaking about our own experiences on how abortion bans are tying our hands in the exam room. But we know we are far from the only ones being harmed.**

- Already, Black and brown women face significant challenges in getting the health care they need due to systemic racism in our medical systems.
- Our country's mass incarceration crisis —which targets Black people and other people of color disproportionately— means we can expect women of color to be scrutinized and criminalized even more in states where abortion is banned.
- Furthermore, for immigrants without proper documentation, traveling out of their state is near impossible, creating a situation where they are forced to choose between their health or possible deportation.

**Banning abortion is an attack on our freedoms as professionals and our individual right to decide about our bodies, our families, and our futures.**

**Social Media - we will also be sending Social Media graphics for you to use to promote and on the day off**

IMPORTANT - Take photos and videos. Please be sure to use the hashtag **#DoctorsForAbortionAccess** for all your social media posts!

**IN PLACE OF A LOCAL ACTION ON NOV 3, YOU MAY POST SHORT VIDEO TESTIMONIALS**

- Ask people to share why they're participating in this action
- Ask people to share if they have family or friends impacted by the decision
- Ask people what they will do to stay active in the campaign

When you post their filmed response on and all platforms (Instagram, Twitter, Meta (Facebook), TikTok), tag them if they are comfortable and use **#DoctorsForAbortionAccess**

**If you have any questions, email [doctorsforabortionaccess@gmail.com](mailto:doctorsforabortionaccess@gmail.com).**