

## Talking Points: Interfaith Support for Abortion Coverage

*This document was created on behalf of All Above All, an effort uniting organizations and individuals, including NCJW, to build support for lifting bans that deny abortion coverage.*

Whether you represent a faith-based organization or one of our allies, you can powerfully elevate the broad faith support that exists to end bans on abortion coverage. Use the following information when writing letters to the editor, op-eds, sample sermons, articles, or ads. You can also use them in meetings with lawmakers and other constituencies, to highlight our shared values and remind them that millions of people of faith — across religious traditions — care passionately about reproductive justice.



### All Above All value: Fair Treatment

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**Interfaith message: We believe in the inherent dignity and equal worth of all people; as such, each person must be treated with respect, regardless of income or insurance.**

- ▶ Women who have fewer resources shouldn't have inferior access to health care than women with more money. Such discrimination is immoral.
- ▶ We must not allow politicians to single out low-income women — who are already marginalized in society — or others enrolled in a public health care program, solely to limit their access to abortion coverage. Doing so is discrimination, plain and simple.

### All Above All value: Personal Autonomy

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**Interfaith message: We believe each person must be able to follow their own beliefs, moral code, and conscience when making personal life decisions.**

- ▶ Restoring insurance coverage of abortion respects — and advances — a woman's moral agency and religious liberty.
- ▶ Our nation is home to people of many different faith traditions, each with unique values regarding reproductive health, and many that support legal access to abortion care. Our laws should respect everyone's ability to make private decisions according to their own conscience. Current insurance coverage restrictions erode this principle by imposing one religious viewpoint on all people, thus infringing on individual religious liberty.
- ▶ It's not my place to judge — or make — anyone else's moral decisions, particularly on issues as deeply personal as when or whether to have children. Nor is it the place of a politician. Low-income women are equally capable as women with greater resources to make important personal decisions; it is critical that *all* people have access to the full range of reproductive health care services.

### All Above All value: Economic Security/Common Sense Policies

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**Interfaith message: A core tenet of most faiths is a commitment to economic and/or social justice; as such, it is immoral to threaten the economic security or well-being of low-income families by reducing their access to reproductive health care.**

- ▶ No matter how much money she has, a woman should be able to access the full range of pregnancy-related care she needs, so that she can best plan if and when to become a parent.

**ISSUE FOCUS: Abortion**

- ▶ Each woman should be able to obtain needed healthcare without jeopardizing her or her family's financial future; no one should be forced to choose between their health and their economic security.
- ▶ Out of respect for social justice and the common good, we believe that it is our moral responsibility to speak out against policies that harm marginalized members of our communities. Abortion care restrictions fly in the face of our commitment to pursue justice.

**All Above All value: Women's Health and Safety**

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**Interfaith message: We believe that ensuring access to safe medical care is a moral obligation.**

- ▶ It is unjust to force low-income women, who already face greater risk of financial and medical insecurity, to face barriers to health care services, including abortion care.
- ▶ When a woman needs to end a pregnancy, she must have unfettered access to safe and accurate medical care provided by high-quality, compassionate physicians; insurance coverage ensures this goal can be realized by all women regardless of income.

**Tips for Allies: Leveraging Faith in Congressional Meetings**

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**Allies who also identify with a faith tradition:** If you are representing a secular organization in a legislative visit, but also identify as a person of faith, say so! This is an important opportunity to make it clear that religion and support for reproductive health, rights, and justice can and do go together.

- ▶ Example: "In addition to being [on the board] of [xyz organization], I'm also a [Presbyterian] and [I support/my faith tradition supports] access to abortion care. For me, ensuring that everyone has unfettered access quality healthcare is a basic religious value."
- ▶ Example: "In addition to being a [health provider], I am also a [Catholic] — my tradition teaches me that [individuals have the right to follow their own conscience when making moral decisions, including decisions about reproductive health care]."

**Allies who don't identify with a faith tradition:** You can help reassure members of Congress that their religious constituents support reproductive health, rights and justice by lifting up the faith partners who are a part of All Above All's efforts, and/or similar efforts in your community:

- ▶ Example: "All Above All members include Catholics for Choice, National Council of Jewish Women, Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, the Unitarian Universalist Association and more, representing a broad swath of people of faith in the district and nationwide. In fact, the majority of people of faith support legal abortion rights."

*For more information about NCJW's Reproductive Justice Initiative or if you are working on reproductive justice advocacy or programming, please let us know!*

**Contact Leanne Gale, [Leanne@ncjwdc.org](mailto:Leanne@ncjwdc.org).**

**This resource was developed collaboratively by NCJW, Catholics for Choice, Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, and the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, in conjunction with the All Above All campaign.**