

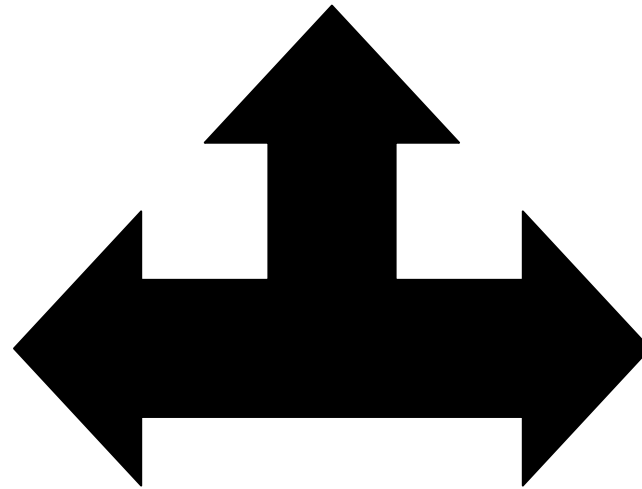
TALKING ABOUT FREEDOM OF CHOICE EFFECTIVE PRO-CHOICE MESSAGES

WHO DECIDES?

We trust women to make private medical decisions, free from government interference.

OPTIONS

We believe that women should have a broad range of choices, including effective family planning, healthy childbearing, adoption, and legal abortion.



WOMEN'S HEALTH, DIGNITY AND EQUALITY

Access to a broad range of reproductive health options, from family planning to abortion to prenatal care, improves women's health and lives. Restricting these choices can have devastating consequences for women.

Tips for Communicating Effectively:

- Acknowledge the complexity of the issue.
- Personalize your pro-choice beliefs.
- Try to find commonality.
- Be an educated advocate.

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- In *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court held that the right to privacy encompasses the right to choose whether to end a pregnancy. *Roe v. Wade* does not give women an unlimited right to abortion throughout pregnancy. Rather, *Roe* maintains that the decision about abortion must be left to the woman until fetal viability. After viability, *Roe* allows states to ban or restrict abortion as long as exceptions are made to protect the woman's life and health.
- In 28 states, women's freedom to choose is at risk of being restricted by the legislature and governor.
- Eighty-six (86) percent of all counties in the U.S. have no identified abortion provider, making it difficult for many women to choose an abortion.

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- Almost half all pregnancies in the United States each year are unintended, including more than 30 percent within marriage.
- Investing in family planning saves money. Every government dollar spent on contraceptive services saves the public approximately \$3 on other medical expenses.
- Emergency contraceptive pills (ECPs) can significantly reduce a woman's chance of becoming pregnant after sex. Wider access to ECPs could reduce unintended pregnancies by half, thereby reducing the need for abortion.
- The vast majority of Americans support responsible sex education that provides teens with information about abstinence, contraception, and STD/HIV prevention.

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- Abortion is a very safe procedure, especially in the first trimester. The risk of complication is minimal – less than one percent of women experience a major complication.
- Taking away women's right to legal abortion will not decrease the number of abortions. It will only return women to the days of back alley abortions when women's health and lives hung in the balance.
- Women's health and equality has improved as a direct result of the legalization of abortion.



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PRO-CHOICE COLORADO

www.ProChoiceColorado.org