



Tuesday, February 9, 2016

Gwen Ifill and Judy Woodruff
Public Broadcasting Service (PBS)
2100 Crystal Drive
Arlington, VA 22202

Ms. Ifill and Ms. Woodruff,

As moderators of the next Democratic debate we urge you to ask Secretary Clinton and Senator Sanders questions about the state of reproductive-health care in this country and specifically about the systematic attacks on access to abortion.

To date, there have been five Democratic debates and zero questions about abortion.

Given that women make up more than fifty percent of the voting population and face the near daily threats to their right to reproductive freedom in this country, at the federal and state level, and in the courts, we find the lack of questions on this subject to be shameful and a real disservice to voters.

In the last few years, Americans experienced the full impact of the restrictions on reproductive freedom enacted since the 2010 elections. Clinic closures, the vilification of both doctors who provide services and women who choose abortion, combined with outright abortion bans, made the last year a harrowing one—even before the deadly attack in Colorado Springs that made clear the price we pay when extreme anti-abortion rhetoric fuels extremist violence.

Throughout the country, anti-reproductive freedom legislators and governors are enacting dangerous restrictions on women's health care at near record numbers. And Republicans in Congress and across the states are spending tens-of-millions of taxpayer dollars investigating Planned Parenthood, despite zero evidence of any wrong-doing, and the Supreme Court is about to hear the most important abortion case in decades.

Given the gravity of these attacks, we believe voters have the right to hear from the Democratic candidates what they plan to do to protect women's reproductive-health care in this country. The Republican presidential candidates have been asked numerous questions about these important issues in their debates and have been given ample time to express their views to voters. We believe it is far past time that Democrats be given the same.

Sincerely,
Joel Foster
Political Director
NARAL Pro-Choice America