

# ACTION PARTY TOOLKIT



Together we will fight  
to protect and expand  
reproductive freedom!



**NARAL**  
PRO-CHOICE AMERICA





## Are you...

- ✓ Angry about the attacks on women's rights?
- ✓ Ready to smash the patriarchy?
- ✓ Looking for a team to get involved with?

THEN

## Host an action party!

In 2017, we have seen an unprecedented number of attacks on reproductive rights. We have an economy that doesn't work for working families and legislators obsessed with attacking the right to legal abortion. This country is downright hostile to women right now. **But you can fight back!**

Talking to your friends, family, and neighbors about reproductive freedom and explaining your passion for this movement is one of the most powerful things you can do. We know the majority of Americans support access to legal abortion, and we need them to talk about it! An organizing party is an easy way to gather your friends and talk to them about what's important to you. It became clear after this election that women's rights are on the line, and people across the country have been inspired to get involved. Help us inspire your friends and family to action!



# How to organize your party

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## Pick a location

Decide where to host the discussion. Inviting people to your home is great, but you can also gather at a coffee shop, bar, house of worship, union hall, college campus, community center, or many more spots.



## Create a guest list

Build your list of attendees. Not sure who to invite? Think outside your usual group of friends. Invite family members, coworkers, classmates, neighbors, or acquaintances from your place of faith, book club, or the gym. You could even create a Facebook event to get the word out to a wider audience.



## Finalize date & invite friends

Send a save-the-date message to your friends so they know to put it on their calendars.



## Confirm attendees

Send a reminder email the week before your party and again the day before. Even better, make follow-up phone calls or texts to your guests to guarantee a great turnout!



## Prepare to take action

**PRINT** copies of the Birth Control Access petition.

**REVIEW** facts about your state's restrictions on abortion and birth control. Find those here: [whodecides.org](http://whodecides.org).

**REQUEST** postcards for people to mail to their two senators from [organize@prochoiceamerica.org](mailto:organize@prochoiceamerica.org).



# Sample agenda

- Make sure guests sign in using the Birth Control Access petition as soon as they arrive.  
(*Make copies of the petition in this toolkit!*)
- Start the party by asking people to introduce themselves and say why they came. (10 minutes)
- Kick off the group discussion with some facts about abortion and birth control access in your state. (5 minutes)
- Ask people for their ideas about what we need to do to improve reproductive rights. We've listed some ideas for questions on the next page. (30 minutes)
- Finish the party by having everyone tweet their senator and tag @NARAL, asking them to protect women's access to effective and affordable birth control. (15 minutes)
- Set up a time for your next meeting! (5 minutes)



## TIP

### Don't be afraid to lead.

Your group may have a great conversation very organically, or they may need guidance. Begin by asking open-ended questions. From there, let the participants discuss and continue to guide the discussion with more specific questions.

## Contact your senator

**Have your guests write postcards to your senators and tell them to protect women's access to birth control coverage.**

**You can find your senators' addresses here:**

<http://www.senate.gov/senators/contact/>



# Here's how you can get the word out

## Sample email

Dear [insert friend/coworker/family member name],

I'm reaching out because **I need your help**. I'm concerned about the direction in which our country is headed. We need to get organized and fight back against the attacks on abortion access, birth control, and reproductive rights in this country. That's why I'm hosting a discussion at [insert location] on [insert date].

I really hope you can come. We'll be joined by other like-minded friends to talk about what we can do right now to make sure every woman has the ability to choose whether, when, how, and with whom to have a family. And please bring a friend!

Thank you in advance for your friendship and time. I look forward to talking to you more about this!

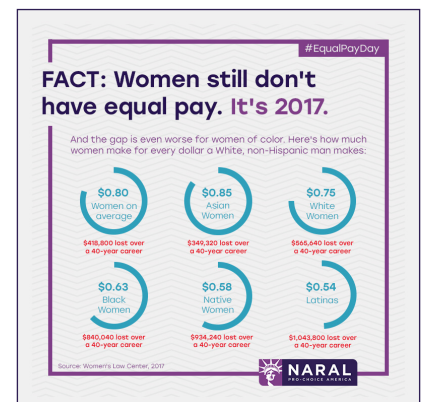
In unity,  
[Sign your name]

## Sample Facebook post

Angry about the non-stop attacks on reproductive rights? Join me for an organizing party at [insert location] on [insert date]. All are welcome. Send me a Facebook message and let me know if you can join.

## Shareables

Use some of our pre-made social shareables (like these examples) to get your friends excited about your event. You can find our collection of social shareables [here](#).







# Ideas for discussion questions

- What brought you here today? Why do you want to get involved?
- Abortion access is declining every year across the country. Anti-choice politicians have made it as hard as possible to get an abortion in some states. Have you or someone you know faced barriers to accessing abortion care? How did that impact you or them?
- If we had pro-choice majorities across the board, what laws would you want to enact to improve the lives of women and families?
- What can we do right now in our community to improve access to reproductive healthcare?
- How does the fight for access to abortion intersect with other fights for justice in our community?
- What does it mean to you to be pro-choice? Have you always been pro-choice?
- NARAL believes every woman deserves the right to decide if and when to start or grow a family. This means we support women throughout their entire reproductive lives, including access to birth control, abortion, paid parental leave, and pregnancy accommodations on the job. What laws would help you and your family right now?
- How do you talk to people in your life about abortion? Can anyone share some successful tips for having these important conversations?

## Don't forget to...

- Mail postcards or tweet your senators!
- Send thank-you messages or notes to all your guests.
- Return sign-in sheets to:

NARAL Pro-Choice America, Attn: Anne Bailey  
1156 15th Street NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20005

- You can also scan and email them to [organize@prochoiceamerica.org](mailto:organize@prochoiceamerica.org)

# Are we still talking about birth control?

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Thanks to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), insurance companies are currently required to cover birth control without any additional out-of-pocket costs, including co-pays and deductibles. The contraceptive coverage benefit alone saves women an estimated \$1.4 billion a year, according to a Health Report study. However, the Trump/Pence administration could take away this benefit at any time. In response to this threat, some state legislators are passing laws to make sure that women in their states do not lose this coverage, even if the federal protections are taken away.

Using birth control is a personal decision that each woman needs to be able to make for herself without ideological interference from others. No one should be able to make that decision on behalf of any woman; not her boss, her elected representatives, or a store clerk. We need our senators to stand up for women and protect access to affordable, effective, preventive healthcare.

## Facts you can use:

- Some states have built upon the ACA's birth-control policy by requiring that insurers cover a year's supply of contraception dispensed at once and/or cover an even broader range of contraceptives without any additional out-of-pocket costs. More about those:
  - **All unique products:** A woman needs to be able to get the birth-control product that best meets her needs, not be forced to use a product that doesn't work for her just because that's what her insurer covers. This policy makes sure that all unique birth-control products are covered with no co-pay so that a woman and her doctor can choose what is best for her health and life, not just what is available.
  - **12 months:** Research has found that women are more likely to use birth control consistently when they receive multiple months of contraception at one time. As we know, use of contraception is critical to reducing the number of unintended pregnancies. This policy ensures that insurers cover 12 months of birth control dispensed at once.
- Opponents of birth-control coverage have pushed for broad refusals or exemptions to these policies. Anti-choice refusals allow healthcare providers, employers, and/or insurers to refuse to provide access to or insurance coverage for contraceptives based on their moral or religious views. No woman should be denied access to basic healthcare and coverage by her boss or an insurance company. Our nation's laws have long protected the freedom of religion and belief—but not the right to impose those beliefs on others.

# What NARAL is doing

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On the campaign trail and after his election, Donald Trump promised to appoint justices to the Supreme Court who would overturn *Roe v. Wade*. Mike Pence said he wants to see *Roe* in the "ash heap of history." The nomination of Neil Gorsuch was a huge victory for the anti-choice movement and Republicans who are obsessed with outlawing abortion. But we know they aren't just against abortion. Because if they were, then they would work with us to make sure that women have access to birth control and paid family leave and couldn't get fired for being pregnant at work. They aren't with us on those things though, because they are anti-women's empowerment.

The Republican majorities at the federal and state levels pose a clear and present danger to women, our bodies, our health, and our freedom. It's more important than ever that NARAL works with all of you to fight back! We are fighting to protect and expand reproductive freedom and that means guaranteeing abortion access for all, expanding contraceptive coverage, advocating for paid family leave, and battling pregnancy discrimination.

**We are ready to play the long game.** We have to build from the ground up. Elections in 2018 are our next opportunity to send anti-choice zealots home. In order to do that, we must organize and mobilize NOW. We must always be one step ahead. You've taken a huge step by agreeing to organize a party and host a discussion with your friends. Your voice is essential in helping us lobby our senators to make sure every woman has access to affordable and medically appropriate birth control.

Taking back our country will require hard work. But we will be here right next to you fighting for women to control their reproductive destinies. Thank you for your membership and activism. We could not do this without you. The only way forward is together.

Thank you for being part of the NARAL family,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Bailey".

**Anne Bailey**  
Deputy Field Director  
NARAL Pro-Choice America





# Tell the Senate:

## I Support Equal Access to Affordable Contraception for All!

Laws that protect and expand comprehensive reproductive healthcare—including contraceptives—are crucial for women and families. A woman should have the autonomy to make decisions about her own body and her own life. This a fundamental American value. In fact, **7 in 10 Americans believe that women should have access to contraception without interference from out-of-touch politicians or our bosses.**

*We, the undersigned, urge the Senate to make sure every woman has access to affordable birth control that is right for her—no matter where she lives, where she works or how much money she makes—so she can control her own future.*

Name (Please Print)	Address (Street, Apt, City, State, Zip)	E-mail (Please Print Clearly)	Phone Number

By taking this action, you are affirming your membership in NARAL Pro-Choice America. For more information, go to <https://www.prochoiceamerica.org/membership>