



FREEDOM IS FOR  
**EVERYBODY**

**July 31, 2020**

**To: Interested Parties**

**From: NARAL Pro-Choice America**

**Re: Hypocrisy of those claiming to be “pro-life” knows no bounds as COVID-19 cases soar to record highs and anti-choice activists announce multiple in-person events in COVID-ravaged states**

Following months of mismanagement and reckless rhetoric from Donald Trump and Republican officials across the country, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to surge in the United States. Over 4 million people have contracted the virus, which has left more than 150,000 Americans dead. And in the U.S. Capitol, radical right-wing Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-TX), who repeatedly insists on his commitment to the “[sanctity of life](#),” put his colleagues, his staff, and hundreds of others at risk by refusing to wear a mask and then [testing positive](#) for COVID-19.

As a majority of states experience a rise in cases, instead of embracing public health guidance and governing competently, **Republican politicians continue to exploit the crisis and anti-choice activists are blatantly flouting public health guidelines.**

**Major anti-choice electoral organization Susan B. Anthony List just [announced](#) that they’re sponsoring an in-person multi-state tour of fake women’s health centers, accompanied by Vice President Mike Pence.** The tour kicks off August 5th with an event in Tampa, Florida—a state which broke its record for single-day COVID-19 deaths this week, hit a record-high number of COVID cases, and had a huge and alarming jump in hospitalizations of children as schools prepare to re-open in-person. The state’s surge in cases has been fueled by **anti-choice, anti-freedom Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) and his inept response to the pandemic.**

**And they’re not the only group opposed to reproductive freedom jeopardizing health and safety.** Care Net, one of the country’s largest networks of fake women’s health centers, is planning a massive, in-person [gathering](#) in early September, also in Florida.

Earlier this spring, we saw anti-choice, anti-freedom politicians rush to reopen the economy prematurely, cavalierly suggesting that older Americans ought to sacrifice their lives for the economy, and capitalizing on the opportunity to further roll back abortion access. While activists and elected officials hostile to the right to abortion try to shut down abortion clinics and block people from accessing care, they are simulatenously defying public health guidance to [pack churches](#) full of people and hold major events in-person.

Meanwhile, **Republican politicians hostile to reproductive freedom continue to ignore basic medical expertise** around social distancing and mask-wearing and in some cases, like

with Governor Brian Kemp in Georgia, are actively trying to [overrule](#) local jurisdictions taking sensible steps to keep people safe.

Millions of parents, teachers, and school administrators are faced with impossible choices for the fall, with the inept response from the Trump administration cobbling the ability for schools across the nation to safely re-open for in-person instruction. And immediately after his administration outrageously [said](#), “the science should not stand in the way of” schools re-opening, Trump announced that the in-person Republican convention planned to be held in Jacksonville, Florida, would be cancelled. The hypocrisy is galling. **To claim a “pro-life” mantle while throwing families and teachers under the bus is despicable.**

Public health experts are now [calling](#) on governmental leaders to shut everything down and try again to curb this pandemic.

Here are some key messages to remember:

- As we face a global pandemic and in a time of national emergency, it’s more critical than ever that our public policy is shaped by data, facts, and science.
- Instead, calculating and manipulative politicians are taking this life or death moment to play politics, putting their hypocrisy on full display.
- Anti-choice, anti-freedom politicians claim to be “pro-life,” yet are quick to jeopardize millions of lives to advance their agenda.
- We can’t stand by as they put dangerous ideology above our collective health and well-being. Science must inform our policy-making, now more than ever.

In late April, NARAL Pro-Choice America Foundation [released](#) a suite of ads showcasing the hypocrisy of these politicians who claim to be “pro-life” but cast aside health and safety recommendations that would protect people’s lives in the midst of an unprecedented pandemic. Instead of turning towards science in the months since, **Republican politicians and anti-choice extremists have only doubled down on their commitment to flout public health guidance and harm families.**

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