The First 100 Days of the Biden-Harris Administration: The Big Picture for Reproductive Freedom

Voters across the country turned out in historic numbers in November to send President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris to the White House. Now, 100 days into the Biden-Harris administration, we’re seeing the stark difference this change in leadership has had on policies affecting reproductive freedom.

Already, there is much to celebrate. The Biden-Harris administration is:

➜ **Charting a new course for reproductive freedom through the cabinet.** The Biden- Harris administration has a historically diverse cabinet of compassionate leaders we can count on to safeguard people’s fundamental rights at home and abroad, including: Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra; Attorney General Merrick Garland; Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta; Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights nominee Kristen Clarke; USAID Administrator nominee Samantha Power; and Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

➜ **Taking action to protect and advance reproductive freedom and undo the Trump administration’s attacks on our fundamental rights.** The Biden-Harris administration has taken critical steps to safeguard and expand reproductive freedom and rights, including:

- **Halting enforcement** of a restriction that forced people to travel to a hospital, clinic, or medical office to access medication abortion care during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Proposing a rule to end** the Trump-Pence administration's domestic gag rule, which devastated the Title X Family Planning Program.
- **Taking executive action to end the global gag rule,** restore funding for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and withdraw the United States from the anti-choice, anti-LGBTQ Geneva Consensus Declaration.
- **Establishing** the historic White House Gender Policy Council to advance gender equity including by promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- **Signing the American Rescue Plan into law** to provide COVID-19 relief, helping expand access to healthcare and provide additional funding for the Title X program.

➜ **Breaking barriers.** Vice President Harris made history as the first woman, first Black person, and first Indian American person elected vice president of the United States. It’s clear her leadership is making a difference in centering the experiences of women and people of color. In April, the White House issued its first-ever proclamation on Black maternal health, Vice President Harris joined a roundtable event on tackling the crisis, and the Biden-Harris
administration made Illinois the first state to receive federal approval to provide full Medicaid coverage for 12-months postpartum.

**But even as we celebrate these victories, reproductive freedom remains in peril.**

Anti-choice state lawmakers are racing to pass bans and restrictions in hopes of landing a case that could roll back *Roe v. Wade* before a U.S. Supreme Court stacked with Trump appointees. Though abortion remains legal in all 50 states, state legislators hostile to abortion have introduced, advanced, or passed over 290 bills undermining reproductive freedom this year. Many of these draconian efforts to ban abortion—including bills in Arkansas, Texas, Arizona, South Dakota, New Hampshire, and Montana—would criminalize women, pregnant people, or the doctors who provide them care.

Knowing that the vast majority of Americans (77%) support the legal right to abortion, the anti-choice movement is trying to rig the game in their favor by attacking the freedom to vote and working to disenfranchise voters in key states Republicans lost in the 2020 election. Look no further for proof than the anti-choice, anti-freedom group Susan B. Anthony List—which recently launched a $5 million campaign to restrict the right to vote.

**With our rights on the line, the Biden-Harris administration must continue to move the needle by taking steps to safeguard and advance reproductive freedom.**

We are still facing the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the consequences of the Trump-Pence administration’s complete disregard for our health and well-being. Black, Indigenous, and people of color; LGBTQ people; and other people who are marginalized face the worst of the pandemic thanks to systemic racism and inequities, and they were most affected by Trump’s attacks on abortion access.

It has never been more clear that science, not ideology, must guide public policy. The anti-choice movement was exponentially emboldened by Trump’s time in the White House and is only doubling down on its work to criminalize abortion—so the Biden-Harris administration cannot budge an inch. The administration must continue to follow through with its promise to fight for reproductive freedom so we can realize a future where freedom is for every body. Here are some critical steps it can take:

- **Ensure that the president’s budget robustly funds reproductive freedom programs** and excludes discriminatory restrictions on abortion coverage like the Hyde and Helms Amendments, denial of care policies like the Weldon Amendment, and other attacks on reproductive freedom;

- **Initiate a comprehensive FDA review of restrictions on medication abortion**—a safe, effective, and FDA-approved option for ending an early pregnancy—so that people’s access to care reflects science, not politics;

- **Rescind Trump’s other executive actions that limit access to care**, including policies attempting to expand denials of care and attacks on contraception coverage;

- **Nominate and appoint judges and executive branch officials** with positive records on reproductive freedom, health, rights, and justice.