To: Interested Parties  
From: NARAL Pro-Choice America Research Team  
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**Top 5 Threats to Reproductive Freedom in Arizona**

Cathi Herrod of the Center for Arizona Policy

Cathi Herrod is the current President of the Center for Arizona Policy (CAP), a far-right, anti-choice group. For the past 27 years, she has spearheaded attacks against reproductive freedom in Arizona. Herrod has **unchecked influence** over legislation in Arizona state politics and has **unparalleled access** to lawmakers. Herrod and the Center for Arizona Policy regularly spread disinformation about abortion care, falsely claiming it is "**harmful**" and "**risky**", and have repeatedly **defended** draconian restrictions on access. Moreover, the Center for Arizona Policy was a **major supporter** of Arizona's public funding of fake health centers. Not only is Herrod an anti-choice extremist, but she also uses her power to push anti-LGBTQ+ legislation in Arizona like the 2022 ban on transgender girls' participation in sports, which she called a "**success**". Herrod and CAP continue to lobby for a far-right agenda in Arizona that is not compatible with the values of Arizonans.

Sen. Nancy Barto (LD-4-R)

Senator Nancy Barto is a **key figure** in the anti-choice movement in Arizona. Sen. Barto has sponsored a variety of legislation aimed at restricting reproductive freedom during her time in the Arizona House and Senate, such as the 15-week ban on abortion that passed earlier this year (**SB 1164**), legislation that sought to criminalize abortion care providers (**SB 1457**), and limited access to abortion care via **restrictions** on medication abortion. Sen. Barto spreads misleading claims about abortion care, including erroneously comparing it to **slavery** and falsely claiming that it is "**traumatic**." She sponsored a **bill** that would force doctors to promote so-called abortion "reversal," an experimental practice that has been denounced as **unproven and unethical** by leading medical organizations. In the November 2022 election, there is the opportunity to unseat this bad actor and ensure that Sen. Barto's agenda of control no longer threatens Arizonans' freedoms.

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1 Picture Credit: [Howard Fischer/Capitol Media Services](https://www.howardfischer.com)  
2 Picture Credit: [AZ Capitol Times](https://azcapitoltimes.com)
Attorney General Mark Brnovich

Arizona Attorney General (AG) Mark Brnovich has criticized pro-choice politicians by calling them “extreme,” yet he holds views that are out of touch with the 9 in 10 Arizonans who believe that each of us should have the freedom to decide how and when we start or grow a family, free from political interference. He supports regressive legislation that restricts access to abortion care. AG Brnovich has defended SB 1457, a law prohibiting abortion based on the perceived reason a person is seeking care. He has joined several anti-choice amicus briefs, including one supporting Mississippi’s 15-week ban on abortion in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization. This brief explicitly called for the Court to overturn Roe and Casey. AG Brnovich uses his influence to further the anti-choice movement’s regressive legislative agenda.

Rep. Walt Blackman (LD-6-R)

Representative Walt Blackman uses his role to further legislation that imposes harmful restrictions on abortion care and continuously spreads anti-choice rhetoric and disinformation. Rep. Blackman has made it clear that he supports extreme regulations on abortion care and has stated that a 15-week ban is “not enough.” Rep. Blackman consistently supports anti-choice legislation and is endorsed by the Center for Arizona Policy. He has voiced support for criminalizing those who seek and provide abortion care and even sponsored legislation (HB2650) that would charge pregnant people and providers with murder. Rep. Blackman possesses anti-choice views that threaten the reproductive rights of Arizonans.

Michael Farris of Alliance Defending Freedom

Michael Farris is the CEO of Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), a conservative Evangelical legal group that works to restrict reproductive freedom and LGBTQ+ rights worldwide. ADF is located in Scottsdale, Arizona, and has been influential in the introduction and passage of anti-LGBTQ+ and anti-choice legislation including Mississippi’s 15-week abortion ban. Farris was also found to have helped draft and support the lawsuit filed by Republican Attorneys General to decertify the 2020 election results. Farris’ influence and desire for power and control pose a threat to basic freedoms in not only Arizona but also in the nation.