



FREEDOM IS FOR
EVERYBODY

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 Policy¹

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)²

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.

¹ Picture Credit: [Howard Fischer/Capitol Media Services](#)

² Picture Credit: [AZ Capitol Times](#)

Attorney General Mark Brnovich³

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)⁴**

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 Freedom⁵**

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.

³ Picture Credit: [Capitol Media Services](#)

⁴Picture Credit: [AZ Leg](#)

⁵ Picture Credit: [AFD Legal](#)