Abortion is a necessary and essential part of life-saving reproductive health care that is currently illegal—or banned in nearly all circumstances—in Louisiana and 12 other states, and heavily restricted in many others. Since Louisiana's near total ban on abortion has been in effect, we have seen devastating consequences on the provision of pregnancy care in the state.

Louisiana's extreme laws are creating chaos and confusion for pregnant patients, doctors and hospitals that treat them by criminalizing pregnancy termination, which is a standard, necessary and often life-saving procedure that is crucial when treating any number of dangerous medical conditions that arise during pregnancy. We support any policies that are aimed at reducing the harm of abortion bans and increasing access to essential reproductive health care.

SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

Louisiana's abortion bans are forcing people who become pregnant as a result of sexual violence to travel hundreds of miles to get an abortion or, instead, carry the pregnancy to term. We support survivors in regaining control over their bodies and lives. If after exploring all of their options, a survivor of any form of sexual violence decides that they cannot go through with a pregnancy resulting from the crime, the law should allow them to end that pregnancy.

PROTECT REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

We oppose any legislation that creates barriers to abortion access for Louisianans. Louisiana has some of the highest rates of unplanned pregnancy and pregnancy among young people. Yet contraception and abortion care is exceedingly difficult to access. We must ensure equitable access to contraception, sexual health education, and legal abortion no matter where you live or how much money you earn.

NO MORE TAX BENEFITS TO ANTI-ABORTION CENTERS

Each year, Louisiana funnels more than a million taxpayer dollars to anti-abortion pregnancy centers that fail to directly provide medical services. Instead, these centers push inaccurate medical information and religious content using tax dollars. There is no oversight of this program, no accountability for the contractors and subcontractors, and no reporting that indicates this program is meeting the goals of the state or federal programs that are providing the funding. We oppose any additional funding or tax credits to support these anti-abortion center.
PAID FAMILY LEAVE

Today in Louisiana, workers are not guaranteed a single paid day off by federal law, and many aren’t even entitled to unpaid time. Often women—particularly low-income women, single mothers, and women of color—simply cannot afford to leave the labor force to address their caregiving needs because their economic contributions are far too important to their families’ financial stability. Not receiving pay or only receiving partial pay while on leave can put women, especially Black women, and their families in precarious economic situations. We support providing paid family leave for all workers in our state.

STOP CENSORSHIP

Across Louisiana, anti-trans, anti-Black advocacy organizations are demanding censorship of certain books and ideas in schools as part of their mission. The vast majority of the books targeted by these groups for removal feature LGBTQ+ characters or characters of color, and/or cover race and racism in American history, LGBTQ+ identities, or sex education. This movement to ban books is deeply undemocratic and seeks to impose restrictions on all students and families based on the religion or ideology of those pushing the bans. We oppose all policies that would let the government decide what we are allowed to access and read.

STOP THE ATTACKS ON TRANS YOUTH

Louisiana lawmakers continue to peddle in fear and pit people against each other to marginalize and punish LGBTQ+ people — and especially transgender children. For LGBTQ+ young people, anti-LGBTQ+ discrimination can instigate intolerance and signal permission to single out LGBTQ+ individuals – which has had deadly consequences for transgender people. We oppose any policies that have the impact of potentially outing and endangering students who have hostile families or that criminalize teachers, parents, or physicians who support trans youth.

PERIOD EQUITY

Students without access to pads or tampons often can't concentrate in class, risk bleeding through their underwear, and are forced to miss class or school altogether, falling behind on lessons and grades. We support policies that would ensure students have free access to period products in their schools.