

# Talking Points

*Consider using the arguments below to discuss abortion rights*

## Talking points in favor of abortion rights:

**Take one of the “I believe” statements below and frame it using the following structure: State your values, identify who is working against your values and how, state what action should happen, state your dream for the future**

**Example:** I believe that without full reproductive healthcare, pregnancy endangers women’s lives and well-being. Government intervention such as bans on abortion is interrupting the ability of women to access life-saving healthcare. We need to assert our right to have autonomy over our lives. All people deserve quality healthcare that meets their unique needs.

I believe that...

- Without full reproductive healthcare, pregnancy endangers women’s lives and well-being.
- People deserve to be trusted to work with their medical providers without the government invading their personal lives.
- Forced pregnancy takes away a family’s freedom to choose. Without full access to reproductive healthcare, women may be forced into the dangers of childbirth.
- Without full access to reproductive healthcare, women are deprived of full, dignified lives.
- Without full access to reproductive healthcare, pregnant people are at higher risk of violence.
- Government violating a person’s privacy regarding one medical choice puts other medical choices at risk.
- There is no “normal” pregnancy. Medical risks from childbirth can increase due to age, physical and mental health concerns, housing and income instability, and other factors that government regulations cannot account for.

Refutations to common misconceptions and claims:

- **Abortion is legal in Minnesota, so I don’t have to worry** – *Roe v. Wade* was the legal standard nationwide, and now it has been reversed. The same could happen in Minnesota, where anti-choice politicians are actively working to change the law.
- **Anti-abortion politicians are just trying to stop 9-month abortions** - A nine-month fetus is at full term, so aborting it isn’t medically possible. Plus, anti-abortion politicians are working to make it illegal from conception, even in cases of ectopic pregnancies and other situations where the woman’s life is in danger.
- **My legislator supports exceptions** – The way these exceptions are playing out in other states, such as Texas, doctors are too afraid of legal consequences to properly offer abortions in the case of those exceptions.
- **My religion says that abortion is wrong** – Your beliefs are important, and no one wants to mandate that you go against them. Abortion should remain a personal choice. Each person should be given the freedom to make medical decisions without government interference.
- **Women who don’t want children should take precautions. Abortion is not the solution** – 80% of women who receive abortion used some type of contraceptive. No contraceptive is perfect, and without the option of abortion, both the pregnant person and their partner are deprived of the freedom to choose what direction their lives will take.

*As a chapter of the National Organization for Women (NOW), Minnesota has been fighting for women’s equality for over 60 years to address wage and workplace inequities, women’s health and safety, and constitutional equality. We affirm that reproductive rights are issues of life and death for women, not mere matters of choice, and we NOW fully support access to safe and legal abortion, to effective birth control and emergency contraception, and to reproductive health services and education for all women. We oppose attempts to restrict these rights through legislation, regulation, or Constitutional amendment.*