



**DECLARING
ABORTION PROVIDER
APPRECIATION DAY
IN YOUR COMMUNITY**

A Proclamation Toolkit



WHO WE ARE

This toolkit is a product of **Abortion Care Network (ACN)**, the **National Institute for Reproductive Health (NIRH)**, and the **National Network of Abortion Funds (NNAF)**. Together, we share a deep commitment to advancing reproductive freedom. Our joint initiative in support of local proclamations is grounded in our understanding that patients' and providers' experiences with abortion care are often hyper local, and thus vary widely depending on what state and even what town someone lives or works in. It is rooted in our deep belief that when providers, advocates, and organizers work together to build power in their communities, they transform public policy. We are led by our shared love for abortion care providers and all those who work and volunteer at abortion clinics, who are to be recognized, honored, and celebrated – on March 10 and every day!



Abortion Care Network

Abortion Care Network (ACN)

is the national membership organization for independent, community-based abortion care providers and their allies. Guided by our values, we work to ensure the rights of all people to experience respectful, dignified abortion care. Independent abortion clinics provide the majority of abortion care in the United States, serving 3 out of every 5 patients who has an abortion. These clinics provide care when and where others do not – operating in the most hostile states, providing the majority of care after the first trimester of pregnancy, and filling health care gaps to serve marginalized and rural communities.



The **National Institute for Reproductive Health (NIRH)**

builds power at the state and local levels to change public policy, galvanize public support, and normalize the decisions that women, trans men, and other people who can become pregnant make about abortion and contraception. Using a partnership model, NIRH provides state and local advocates with strategic guidance, hands-on support, and funding to create national change from the ground up. For more than 40 years, NIRH has been partnering with communities to build coalitions, launch campaigns, and successfully advocate for policy change. NIRH's strategy is to go on the offensive and focus on communities where change is needed, so the fabric of reproductive freedom becomes harder to tear apart.



The **National Network of Abortion Funds (NNAF)**

builds power with members to remove financial and logistical barriers to abortion access by centering people who have abortions and organizing at the intersections of racial, economic, and reproductive justice. We envision a world where every reproductive decision, including abortion, takes place in thriving communities that are safe, peaceful, and affordable. We envision a world where all people have the power and resources to care for and affirm their bodies, identities, and health for themselves and their families – in all areas of their lives. As of November 2020, our network is comprised of 83 autonomous abortion funds in 43 states and three countries.

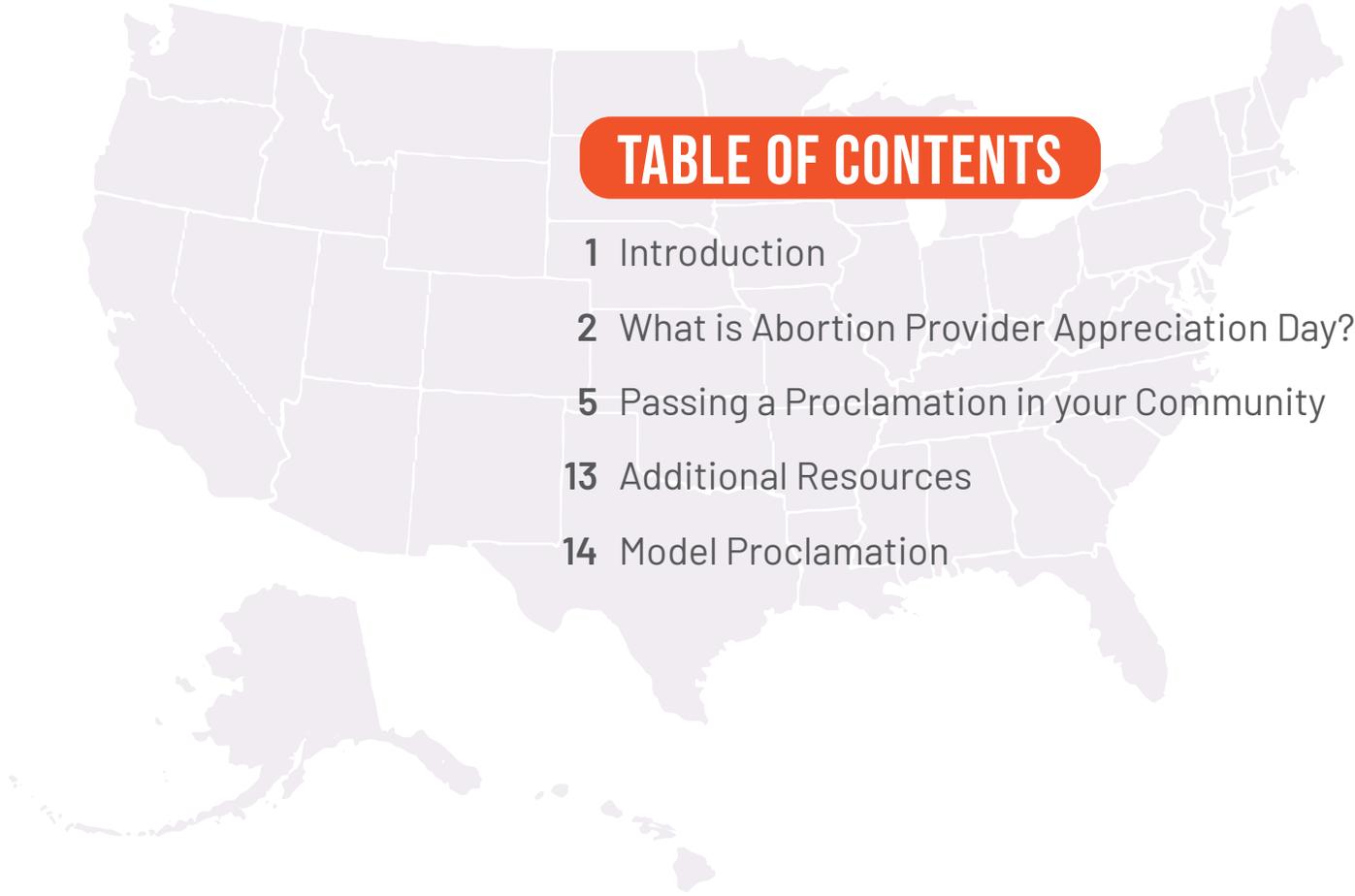


TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1 Introduction
- 2 What is Abortion Provider Appreciation Day?
- 5 Passing a Proclamation in your Community
- 13 Additional Resources
- 14 Model Proclamation

INTRODUCTION

Declaring Abortion Provider Appreciation Day in Your Community: A Proclamation Toolkit is designed for advocates, organizers, abortion providers, and staff and volunteers at abortion clinics who want to learn more about working with their local government to pass a proclamation officially recognizing March 10 as Abortion Provider Appreciation Day. Recognizing Abortion Provider Appreciation Day is an opportunity to recognize the essential work abortion providers do in their local communities every day, which can sometimes get lost when much of the public's attention is turned toward national issues and events.

Our hope is that by using this toolkit and partnering with Abortion Care Network (ACN), the National Institute for Reproductive Health (NIRH), and the National Network of Abortion Funds (NNAF) for additional support, advocates, organizers and providers can effectively advocate for the passage of a proclamation (no small feat!) and do more than just get the votes for passage. Abortion Provider Appreciation Day can also be an opportunity to:

- **Educate, engage, and build relationships with local officials about access to abortion and how it impacts their locality.**
- **Educate their community about who their local abortion providers are and how they can support them.**
- **Build power locally to strengthen support for abortion providers and access to abortion.**
- **Increase media coverage and awareness of Abortion Provider Appreciation Day.**
- **Combat abortion stigma and shift the conversation about abortion to be positive and affirming of patients and providers.**
- **Celebrate abortion providers!**



What is a Proclamation?

Each municipality is likely to have their own definition for a proclamation and a resolution, but in general, a proclamation is a formal recognition of a cause, event, or organization, while a resolution expresses an opinion or the will of the government body that passes it. Each community may have a different name for these types of statements, such as a resolution, declaration, or proclamation. For simplicity, we will use "proclamation" throughout this toolkit.

We like this definition from Durham County, NC: "The goal of a proclamation is to recognize and celebrate the extraordinary achievements of... residents and nonprofit organizations, to honor occasions of importance and significance to...residents, and to increase public awareness of issues with the hope of improving the well-being of [residents]."¹

WHAT IS ABORTION PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY?

On March 10, 1993, Dr. David Gunn was murdered by a white supremacist anti-abortion extremist. As a way to honor the life and work of Dr. Gunn and all of the courageous, compassionate people who provide abortion care, March 10, 1996, became the first National Day of Appreciation for Abortion Providers, which evolved in later years into "Abortion Provider Appreciation Day."

#CELEBRATEABORTIONPROVIDERS

Since 2017, ACN has hosted an annual [#CelebrateAbortionProviders](#) campaign on Abortion Provider Appreciation Day. The campaign includes celebrating and appreciating abortion care providers through love notes, art, media coverage, a Tweetstorm, and more.

LOCAL PROCLAMATIONS OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZING MARCH 10 AS ABORTION PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY

In 2020, ACN and NIRH teamed up to offer providers, advocates, and organizers another way to celebrate abortion providers: passing local proclamations to officially recognize March 10, 2020 as Abortion Provider Appreciation Day. Proclamations are a common way that communities acknowledge important local milestones or cultural celebrations or to celebrate local businesses and leaders. They can also convey a community's values or position on an important issue. A proclamation centering Abortion Provider Appreciation Day can serve all of these purposes.



Editors' Note: *At the time of this toolkit's publication in early November 2020, abortion access is under imminent threat. The confirmation of anti-abortion Judge Amy Coney Barrett to replace Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the Supreme Court directly challenges the legal right to abortion. We are still navigating the COVID-19 pandemic, and in some states, anti-abortion extremists even exploited the beginning of the public health crisis to impose severe limits on abortion care. Through the uncertainty of these times, abortion care providers across the country continue to provide dignified, compassionate care to their patients. These times only reinforce the importance of moments like Abortion Provider Appreciation Day, a time to celebrate and honor the work of abortion care providers and their role in our communities.*

WHAT IS ABORTION PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY?

2020 WINS!

In 2020, advocates successfully passed proclamations recognizing Abortion Provider Appreciation Day in Austin, TX; Atlanta, GA; Minneapolis, MN; St. Louis, MO; St. Paul, MN; and the state of Washington. Advocates were in the process of laying the groundwork for passage in several more cities, but the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic changed the plans and priorities of local officials in many places. Each locality tailored their strategy to their local environment. Read on for some examples!

St. Louis, MO

St. Louis was the first city to recognize Abortion Provider Appreciation Day, passing their proclamation on February 28, 2020. NARAL Pro-Choice Missouri, Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region, and Hope Clinic for Women partnered with Alderwoman Christine Ingrassia to lead this successful effort. Their proclamation celebrated Reproductive Health Services of Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri as the only abortion provider in Missouri, and acknowledged the important role that the providers at Hope Clinic for Women in Granite City, IL, just across the state line, also play in ensuring access for Missourians.

Minneapolis, MN

On March 10, Mayor Jacob Frey of Minneapolis officially proclaimed Abortion Provider Appreciation Day in the city and celebrated the historic moment on social media. Led by Gender Justice, the UnrestrictMN campaign, and Whole Woman's Health Alliance, the community came together to honor their providers at an event where they signed and sent thank you cards to local clinics.



"I am proud to celebrate our local abortion and clinic staff who help ensure that all women, trans men, and other people who can become pregnant can make their own decisions about their bodies and their pregnancies, and support their patients' decisions by treating them with dignity, compassion, and respect."

– ALDERWOMAN CHRISTINE INGRASSIA, ST. LOUIS, MO



WHAT IS ABORTION PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY?

Atlanta, GA

The Atlanta City Council, led by Council Member Amir Farokhi, worked with the AMPLIFY GA Coalition to recognize Abortion Provider Appreciation Day. The coalition held an event, "Not All Heroes Wear Capes," where Council Member Farokhi read the proclamation and the community partied and celebrated the amazing clinics in the Atlanta Metro Area.



Washington State

Governor Jay Inslee of Washington issued a proclamation recognizing Abortion Provider Appreciation Day across the state, prompted by advocacy from Cedar River Clinic. This was an exciting and important step, even as Washington began dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

"As a campaign, working to pass a proclamation declaring March 10th Abortion Provider Appreciation Day was an important next step in engaging the Atlanta City Council around proactive, abortion-positive legislation. Drafting the proclamation was easy and we were able to leverage our existing relationships on the council to pass it quickly. This small but important win created an opportunity to mobilize our base in celebration and raise awareness in the community around the important work of abortion providers and clinic staff. AMPLIFY plans to continue to celebrate Abortion Provider Appreciation Day each year, hopefully using it to pass additional proactive legislation to expand access to abortion care in Atlanta." – ALLISON COFFMAN, AMPLIFY GA

"We are grateful to Governor Inslee for recognizing abortion providers and the important health care we provide to the people of Washington State. Under relentless federal attacks, political interference, and threats, Cedar River Clinics and abortion providers across the country are fighting for our patients and for everyone's right to access essential reproductive health care. We are grateful that the Governor supported reproductive health care and rights."

– CONNIE CANTRELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CEDAR RIVER CLINICS



PASSING A PROCLAMATION IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

GETTING STARTED

Once you've decided you'd like to work on passing an Abortion Provider Appreciation Day proclamation in your community, the first thing to do is confirm that your locality does in fact pass proclamations or resolutions (some do not), and then identify abortion providers who you want to celebrate and who want to be celebrated.²

If your community is not home to any abortion clinics...

Unfortunately, you aren't alone. Most communities in the United States don't have a local abortion clinic.³ But even in a town with no providers, there are definitely people who live there who have had abortions, and it makes sense for your town to appreciate the abortion providers who care for those residents.

You'll want to be prepared to make the case to your local leaders about why it's still important to celebrate Abortion Provider Appreciation Day, even though you don't have a local clinic. ACN, NIRH, and NNAF can help, but it will be useful to be able to talk about how people in your community have relied on access to abortion care. You could estimate how many residents might need abortion care over their lifetimes based on the number of cis women of reproductive age in your community⁴ (unfortunately, it may be difficult to find local-level data on trans or gender non-conforming people who can get pregnant, but you can still share the information that all people who can get pregnant need abortions with

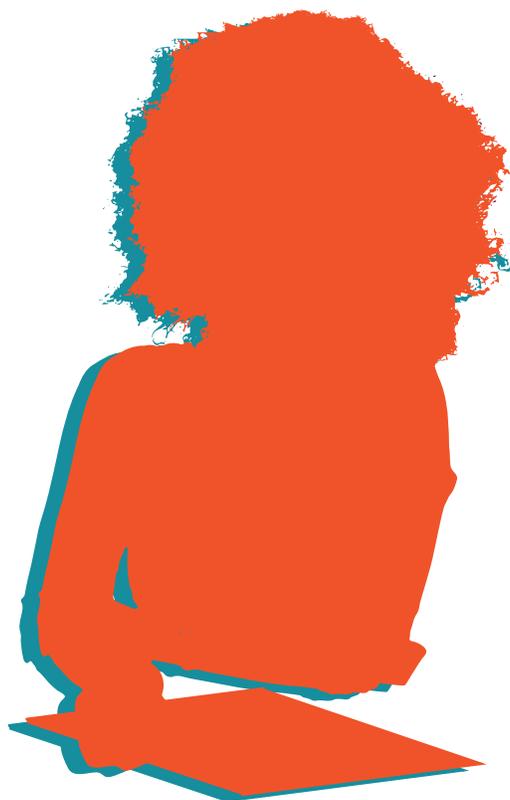
your community and policymakers) or you could identify one or two abortion storytellers who live in your community who would be willing to share their experience. Those stories would ideally help the lawmakers understand why providers in other parts of the state, where their own constituents have had to journey for care, are worthy of celebration in your community and all over the state.

If your community does have one or more abortion clinics...

If your town is home to one or more abortion clinics, your next step, after confirming that your community does pass proclamations or resolutions, is to check in with each of them before you do anything else.

...and you are an employee at one of the clinics.

If you already work at a clinic and it is the only clinic in your community, then you may know how your clinic feels about potentially being celebrated, although you should be sure to discuss the idea with your colleagues, including clinic leadership. If there are other clinics in your community, be sure to connect with each of them to discuss the idea.



Here are some questions for your clinic(s) to consider as you discuss this idea:

- Would this local proclamation make you and your team feel appreciated?
- Are you already working in coalition with local reproductive health, rights, and justice partners in your area?
 - ▶ If so, would they want to work on this with you?
 - ▶ If not, would you like to be connected to them to see if they are interested in working with you?
- What existing relationships do you have with local elected officials, your city council, and/or mayor?
- If the proclamation passes, what's the best way to celebrate for your clinic? Media coverage? An event? A ceremony at city hall?

...and if you are an advocate, organizer, or a clinic volunteer.

It's important to center clinics in your advocacy and to reach out directly to each of the clinics in your community to find out if they are comfortable with you moving forward with this idea. This is also true if you volunteer with a clinic but do not necessarily interact with clinic leadership; you should approach the staff you do know and ask them for their assistance in bringing the idea to clinic leadership so they can discuss internally. Some clinics may not want you to pursue this strategy at all for any number of reasons, including fears of increased harassment

or violence that may result. **If the clinics do not want you to move forward, you should not move forward.** Other clinics may be comfortable with you moving forward with a general proclamation but would not want their specific clinic to be named and honored. Every clinic in the community should be comfortable with your strategy. If the clinics do want to move forward, the next step is to develop a plan for how you will work together. Here are some questions you may want to discuss and come to agreement on:

- Who will be the point person for communication at the clinic(s)?
- Do they want to be involved in the advocacy itself, or to receive regular updates from you on how it is going? Or would they prefer for you to just let them know once the proclamation is close to passing?
- Will you need anything from the clinic, like testimony about the role they play in the community or for someone to attend the city council meeting where the proclamation passes, and if so, do they have capacity to provide it? If not, can you or another ally help them?
- If you want to name each clinic in the proclamation itself, are they comfortable with that, or would they prefer to be generally recognized as "abortion providers" or "local abortion providers" rather than called out individually?
- Once the proclamation passes, how do they want to be celebrated? See [p.12 for some ideas](#) and check out ACN's toolkit when it is published closer to March 10.

CHECK IN WITH ALLIES & YOUR COMMUNITY

Your own proclamation will be situated in the context of everything else going on in local politics and policy. If you are an advocate or organizer who works in the area already, you may be familiar with the priorities of ally organizations who are engaged in local policy advocacy and organizing. If not, familiarizing yourself with the other issues on the local agenda should be the next step.

Check in with your allies in the community to share your goals and to discuss whether and how your plans fit with their own agendas. This may raise some unexpected challenges – some allies may have priorities that conflict with yours or that make the timing of this proclamation seem tricky in one way or another. However, it is critical to share information with other local advocates and organizers working in the same policy arena, to ensure you are not stepping on the toes of your allies, but also to see whether there are opportunities to combine forces and show up for each other’s work, or even see if your proclamation or the advocacy around it could include information on your allies’ agenda as well.

In this time of mass uprisings and public reckonings across the country against police brutality, racism, and state-sanctioned violence, we particularly recommend checking in with your community, allies, and local organizations about what related efforts they might be working on.

Take their agenda into consideration in your planning and consider the connections you could draw between your work, if appropriate. We fight for abortion access for the same reason we join those calling for an end to state-sanctioned police violence and the dismantling of white supremacy: it’s about our ability to live and thrive in our bodies and communities; to determine how we build our families; and our right to create and raise those families safely and with dignity. That includes the ability to raise our children in communities free from police brutality and other state-sanctioned violence.



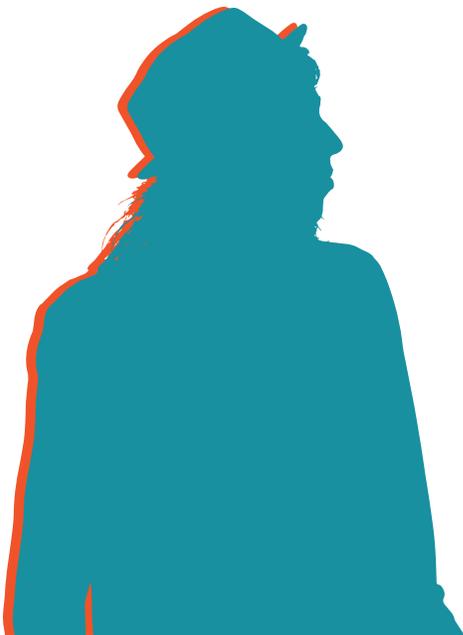
GOAL SETTING

Once you have the green light from the abortion providers in your community and your allies, it's time to figure out your goals for passing the proclamation.

Is it likely that the proclamation will pass?

If your community is progressive and a majority of elected officials support abortion access, there is a good chance that it will pass.

In a conservative or anti-abortion locality, it may be more of an uphill battle, but one that you may think is worth fighting in order to be able to have a public conversation about abortion. In this context, however, it is critical to have at least one strong champion on the council to ensure that any public debate actually raises the messages you want to share, rather than giving the opposition a free hearing to air their own anti-abortion views. If you are considering running a proclamation in a locality that is likely to fail because of a significantly conservative council, we encourage you to speak with ACN, NIRH, or NNAF about the pros and cons of this approach and the other goals you may be trying to achieve.



What are your goals beyond passage?

Whether you are successful or not in passing the proclamation, there are additional goals you can set for your advocacy campaign that will help inform your strategy. Potential goals, in addition to passage of the proclamation, could be:

▶ To educate local officials about access to abortion in your community and build your relationship with them. Consider prioritizing:

- ▶ Meetings with local elected officials or hosting a local lobby day.
- ▶ Hosting a message training and asking elected officials to speak to media about the proclamation.
- ▶ Inviting elected officials to join you at an event or action to celebrate the day.

▶ To organize supporters, educate the community about who their local abortion providers are, and engage them in work to support providers and abortion access. Consider prioritizing:

- ▶ Hosting trainings or events for community members on how they can support your advocacy.
- ▶ Activating supporters to call or visit their city council members to talk about why this is important to them.
- ▶ Developing social media messages and graphics that supporters can share with their communities.

➤ **To raise awareness in the media about Abortion Provider Appreciation Day and the importance of abortion providers. Consider prioritizing:**

- ▶ Drafting and submitting a press release, hosting a press conference, or pitching an article to your local paper.
- ▶ Writing an opinion piece on the importance of Abortion Provider Appreciation Day.
- ▶ Hosting a letter to the editor-writing party with your supporters.

➤ **To combat abortion stigma and work towards culture change in your community. Consider prioritizing:**

- ▶ Hosting message trainings for supporters and elected officials.
- ▶ Holding safe events that celebrate abortion and abortion providers.
- ▶ Uplifting abortion storytellers who are willing to talk about why they appreciate abortion providers.

➤ **To build power with your local reproductive health, rights, and justice community. Consider prioritizing:**

- ▶ Building a coalition with other reproductive health, rights, and justice organizations and community members to pass the proclamation.
- ▶ Focusing on the process of passing the proclamation together, how you work together towards shared goals, and learning about local advocacy.
- ▶ Engaging supporters and elected officials using strategies outlined above.



ADVOCATING FOR A PROCLAMATION

Now that you've done the preparation work you need to do, it's time to start your advocacy! It's a good idea to rely on your core supporters to help get the word out, build energy, and amplify visibility of the campaign. Building relationships with new supporters and strengthening connections with existing supporters helps to build community for more action in the future.

Develop a draft proclamation.

- ▶ Please find a [model proclamation](#) at the end of the toolkit.
- ▶ Your champions on the city council may change the language, but it's wise to start by going to them with a draft proposal that you are comfortable with.
- ▶ Remember to decide whether or not you want to name specific abortion providers and/or clinics in the proclamation, and if so, to get the approval of the providers before you do.

Identify the local leaders you want to work with.

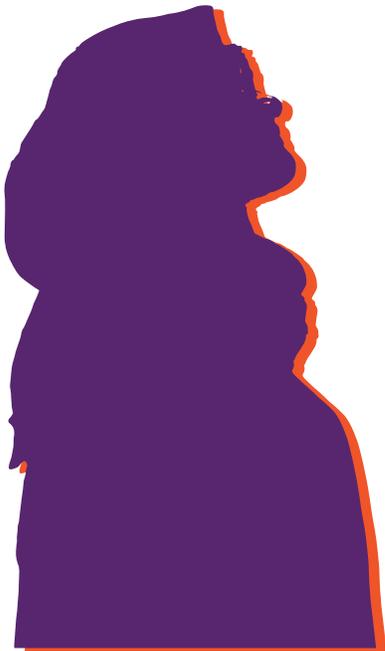
- ▶ On the local level, you could work with the city council to pass the proclamation, the mayor to issue the proclamation, or both.
- ▶ You could also decide you want to work on the county level instead, and then you would work with your county commission to pass the proclamation.
- ▶ Or you could decide to work on the state level and have your governor pass a state-wide proclamation.

Identify your potential elected official champion(s) and reach out to them to set up a meeting to discuss the idea.

- ▶ If you have never done this before, see if an allied organization can make an introduction – but a cold request should still get a response, particularly if your organization has been active in the elected official's district.
- ▶ Think carefully about who should be at this meeting – who can most effectively convey this idea? Make sure each of you is prepared to make the case for why this is important and to share your goals for passage. Ideally someone in the meeting should either have a previous relationship with the council person, be from the council person's district, or have a connection to something the council person cares deeply about. But if not, don't be deterred; this can be a way to open up or foster a relationship with an elected official.
- ▶ Have a specific ask for the meeting, and ask the elected official or lawmaker for their commitment. Your ask is likely to be their commitment to sponsoring the proclamation and to helping you work with their colleagues to earn their support.

▶ Develop a timeline of your advocacy from now until the time of passage.

- ▶ Include dates for when the proclamation will ideally be introduced and voted on, but also including information on when you want to engage the community, reach out to media (including prepping a press release, op-ed, and/or Letter to the Editor (LTE)), lobby other councilmembers, and host any events or other actions to celebrate abortion providers.
- ▶ The timeline for a proclamation varies from locality to locality. Ask your champion how it works, or do your own research on your local government website to learn what the process for your proclamation will be. Remember that the process for a proclamation may be different from the process for passing a law.



The process could look like one of these three processes:



TIME TO CELEBRATE!

Your proclamation passed!! How should you celebrate?

- ▶ Submit an Op-Ed or LTE to a local paper.
- ▶ Pitch and participate in a national news story with other cities that also passed proclamations.
- ▶ Join the virtual celebration by participating in social media efforts using #CelebrateAbortionProviders.
- ▶ Write a poem, love letter, or create a piece of art honoring a local abortion clinic.
- ▶ Volunteer at your local clinic or in your community in honor of your local clinic.
- ▶ Donate to or fundraise for your local independent abortion clinic in honor of Abortion Provider Appreciation Day.
- ▶ Host a postcard party in your home or office and create thank-you cards and affirmations for your local clinic (postcards are much better than mail enclosed in envelopes for security purposes!).
- ▶ Host a virtual or safe in-person gathering or teach-in in your home or office centering your local providers' service to the community.
- ▶ Record a video message from your organization's staff, including messages about why you celebrate abortion care providers and why the work they do is important.
- ▶ Send a plant or flowers from a local florist to brighten up the staff break room or patient waiting area.

Activities that require reaching out to clinics first:

We know surprises are fun, but for the sake of clinic security, patient privacy, scheduling, and dietary restrictions, these activities require planning ahead with the clinic. Give your clinic a call first, and ask about any preferences they have – each clinic may be different!

- ▶ Treat your local clinic staff to sweets, an edible arrangement, breakfast, or lunch delivered directly to them from a local business.
- ▶ Send a basket with an assortment of quick and easy-to-eat snacks such as granola bars, nuts, chocolates – providers are always on the go!
- ▶ Sidewalk chalk around the clinic with messages of support (please contact your clinic first to check on any property/security issues!).
- ▶ If you/your ally organization are in the same locality as the clinic, coordinate a happy hour at a nearby restaurant with your staff and clinic staff. If you're not in the same place or if you're practicing social distancing due to COVID-19, host the happy hour over Zoom instead!
- ▶ Connect with your clinic to see if they need help planting flowers, painting a fence, or doing spring cleaning.

In the time of COVID, some of these suggestions may look different or not be possible, so consider COVID-safe alternatives as well.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

You are not on your own! ACN, NIRH, and NNAF are available to offer assistance and strategic guidance throughout the process. This toolkit is just one element of the support that we are offering advocates, organizers, and providers working on this initiative. These resources include:

 **This Toolkit!**

 **Additional Materials:** As we get closer to Abortion Provider Appreciation Day, we will share additional materials that will help in your advocacy, such as:

- ▶ Guidance and Talking Points on Responding to Backlash.
- ▶ Sample Letter to the Editor (LTE).
- ▶ Sample Op-Ed.
- ▶ Abortion Provider Appreciation Day Communications Calendar.
- ▶ Press Release Template.

 **Cohort Calls:** NIRH will host cohort calls leading up to March 10 for people working on the proclamation to customize their organizing plan, share updates, problem solve, and learn from each other.

 **Communications:** ACN and NIRH can offer guidance on drafting a customized local press release, preparing talking points, developing a social media plan, and making sure you get as much media coverage of your win as possible!

 **“Abortion Provider Appreciation Day” Toolkit:** As we get closer to the day itself, ACN will be issuing a general toolkit for celebrating Abortion Provider Appreciation Day that will include new resources, like graphics, sample messages for social media, and creative ideas for how to honor the day by celebrating the abortion providers in your community.

 **Customized support for abortion providers, abortion funds, AND advocates for abortion access:** ACN, NIRH, and NNAF are teaming up to provide the best strategic guidance, connections, and support our organizations can. Be on the lookout for ways our organizations can support you!



WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US IN APPRECIATING, HONORING, AND CELEBRATING THESE ABORTION PROVIDERS WHO PROVIDE COMPASSIONATE, DIGNIFIED, AND ESSENTIAL ABORTION CARE TO THEIR COMMUNITIES AND WHO FIGHT FOR ALL OF US.

Contact us by email for support:

National Institute for Reproductive Health
partnerships@nirhealth.org

Abortion Care Network
media@abortioncarenetwork.org

MODEL PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, on March 10, 1993, Dr. David Gunn was shot and killed by a white supremacist anti-abortion extremist, in the first known instance of the murder of an abortion provider; AND

WHEREAS, to honor his memory, March 10 has since been established as a day to show appreciation for the high-quality care that abortion providers and clinic staff provide, and to celebrate their courage, compassion, and dedication to their work; AND

WHEREAS, the decision about whether and when to become a parent is one of the most important life decisions a person can make, and abortion providers must be accessible in order for people to make real decisions about their bodies, lives, and futures; AND

WHEREAS, abortion providers and clinic staff help to ensure that all women, trans men, and other people who can become pregnant can make their own decisions about their bodies and their pregnancies, and support their patients' decisions by treating them with dignity, compassion, and respect; AND

WHEREAS, abortion is one of the safest medical procedures in the United States, and experts at the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine published a study in 2018 confirming that scientific evidence consistently indicates that legal abortions in the U.S., including those performed by advanced practice clinicians and those performed in the second trimester, are extremely safe;⁵ and

WHEREAS, the report also reinforced the well-documented reality that recent restrictions in some states have forced many abortion clinics to shut down, such that ninety percent of counties in the United States today do not have an abortion provider,⁶ while the Abortion Care Network found that the number of independent abortion clinics in the United States has declined by a third since 2012 and that the recent gutting of the Title X program has further threatened access to abortion referrals and abortion care;⁷ AND

WHEREAS, this shortage creates and increases the out-of-pocket costs and logistical burdens that patients face to get care, while exposing the remaining abortion providers and staff to increased levels of harassment and politically motivated restrictions; AND

WHEREAS, the National Abortion Federation's 2018 statistics on violence and disruption found an alarming escalation in incidences of obstruction, vandalism, and trespassing at abortion clinics;⁸ AND

WHEREAS, **[INSERT DATA ABOUT CLINIC VIOLENCE OR HARASSMENT AT LOCAL CLINICS IF APPLICABLE]**; AND

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the United States now contains a majority of Justices who may not interpret the Constitution to provide protection for the right to end a pregnancy and may overturn or severely limit *Roe v. Wade*, which includes the threat of women and abortion providers being arrested and sent to jail; AND

WHEREAS, abortion providers and clinic staff courageously provide care in the face of these restrictions, political interference, and threats to their personal safety; AND

WHEREAS, the country is currently facing two ongoing crises, the COVID-19 pandemic and police brutality, that disproportionately impact people of color, especially Black people; AND

WHEREAS, in this important moment of protest against systemic racism, it is more important than ever to affirm the right of all people to control their lives, their bodies, and their futures, and that includes the right to choose if, when, and how to become a parent, and to parent children in a safe and healthy environment; AND

WHEREAS, reproductive health care, including abortion care, is essential, time-sensitive health care that cannot be delayed even during a global pandemic; AND

WHEREAS, abortion providers in [CITY] are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic as they work with public health providers, hospitals, and others to serve their communities, conserve health resources, and ensure patients can get the time-sensitive reproductive health care they need, including birth control and abortion, while prioritizing keeping their patients and staff safe; and

WHEREAS, abortion providers and the clinic staff who support them and their patients are an essential and valued part of [CITY]'s health care, providing quality, compassionate, and necessary health care to both community members and those who travel here for care;

Now, therefore be it resolved that the [CITY COUNCIL/MAYOR/COUNTY COMMISSION] of [CITY/ COUNTY], in recognition of Abortion Provider Appreciation Day and to honor Dr. Gunn's memory, celebrate the courage, compassion, and the high-quality care that abortion providers and clinic staff provide, especially [LOCAL CLINICS]; and

Now, therefore, be it further resolved that the [CITY COUNCIL/MAYOR/COUNTY COMMISSION] of [CITY/ COUNTY] is proud to be home to [X NUMBER] of abortion providers, [LIST EACH ABORTION PROVIDER], is committed to ensuring their safety and continued operation in [CITY], and welcomes patients traveling to [CITY] to access the abortion care they need.

ENDNOTES

¹ “Ordinances, Resolutions, Proclamations & Letters,” Durham County, NC, available at <https://www.dconc.gov/government/departments-a-e/clerk-to-the-board/ordinances-resolutions-proclamations-letters>

² Two tools that can be used to find clinics in your area are: <https://ineedana.com/> or <https://www.abortionfinder.org/>.

³ Rachel K. Jones, Elizabeth Witwer, and Jenna Jerman, “Abortion Incidence and Service Availability in the United States, 2017.” Guttmacher Institute, September 2019. Accessed at <https://www.guttmacher.org/report/abortion-incidence-service-availability-us-2017> (August 17, 2020).

⁴ This data should be available via the US Census. Contact NIRH for support in accessing and interpreting the data.

⁵ Nat’l Academies of Sci., Engineering, and Med. (“Nat’l Academies”) (March 2018). The Safety & Quality of Abortion Care in the U.S.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Abortion Care Network (2019). Communities Need Clinics: Independent Abortion Care Providers and the Landscape of Abortion Care in the United States, accessed at <https://www.abortioncarenetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/CommunitiesNeedClinics2019.pdf> (December 2019).

⁸ National Abortion Federation (2018). NAF 2018 Violence and Disruption Statistics, accessed at <https://prochoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2018-Anti-Abortion-Violence-and-Disruption.pdf> (December 2019).