



NEBRASKA COALITION
TO END SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The United States Supreme Court decision to end the constitutional right to abortion will have a chilling effect on survivors across the country. In the aftermath of sexual violence; in escaping domestic violence and trafficking; and in building safe and autonomous lives—access to reproductive healthcare, including abortion, is fundamental to survivors' ability to achieve these.

The Nebraska Coalition stands with survivors in full autonomy over their choices in how to navigate their trauma and access safety. Our mission to end gender-based violence cannot be fulfilled until survivors and all people can freely decide what happens to their bodies. Although this decision does not create immediate changes to abortion access in Nebraska, we stand with survivors and our partner Coalitions in states where 'trigger' laws and other legislation are already putting survivors in increased physical, financial and emotional danger.

Since the Nebraska Coalition was created in 1978, the foundation of our advocacy has been on supporting survivor's choices. We meet survivors where they are at. We provide options followed by support for the ways in which they choose to navigate their trauma. We honor that survivors know best how to stay safe.

Because abusers often use reproductive coercion to control survivors, access to a full range of reproductive health care, including abortion care, is an ongoing and crucial component to safety. Reproductive coercion includes survivor's birth control being sabotaged, being intentionally exposed to sexually transmitted infections, forced to become pregnant, to continue or end a pregnancy against their will among other things, all through the use of manipulation, threats and violence. The goal of abusers is always to maintain control over the survivor and prevent them from leaving or seeking help.

The impact of this decision is real. When intimate partner violence is present, the chance of unintended pregnancy doubles. And because women of color experience sexual and intimate partner violence at higher rates, this decision will disproportionately impact them. While one in four women will experience severe intimate partner abuse in their lifetime, among Black women the rate of physical partner abuse increases to 41 percent and in Indigenous women increases to 56 percent.

We believe all people deserve control over their lives and decisions, including the ability to safely and freely decide to become or stay pregnant. Domestic violence, sexual assault and trafficking survivors have too often had their choices taken away or limited by those who have harmed them. It is crucial that all who support survivors respect their right to take back this autonomy and make their own choices to move forward.