

Open Letter to Liz Shuler, President AFL-CIO

We, the undersigned unions, labor leaders and activists, **urge the AFL-CIO to call an emergency labor conference in support of reproductive justice.** Nationally, reproductive rights are in a desperate condition. It is imperative that we never return to the days of back-alley abortions, and organized labor has a unique and critical role to play in preventing this.

In the short time between the Texas ban implementation (September 2021) and when the U.S. Supreme Court abolished the right for people who can become pregnant to control their bodies (June 2022), Planned Parenthood health centers in states surrounding Texas saw a 550% spike in patients from Texas compared to the previous year.

The inability to control whether or not to bear children impacts all working people. The same forces attacking reproductive rights are also seeking to destroy our unions. **Numerous labor bodies have passed resolutions and issued statements pledging to defend these basic rights.**

The U.S. Supreme Court's attacks on abortion, bodily autonomy, and LGBTQIA+ access to health care impact the majority of young workers and the 50.04% of the workforce that is female (*Time Magazine*, 1/16/2020), with the heaviest burden falling on workers of color. These are the very workers who are waging militant strikes as nurses and educators and union drives at Starbucks, Amazon, and in the fast food industry.

A national labor conference can help unite us in the struggle for social and economic justice. It can bring together union activists in a concerted effort to discuss and plan for action to fight for reproductive justice and bodily autonomy. The AFL-CIO has the influence to encourage organized labor to take a stand on this urgent issue and the resources to educate labor colleagues on how to join with our communities to build a movement.

We suggest holding this conference in a state where abortion has been banned or is facing threatening legislation. This would send a message to these communities that labor will stand with them.

Labor is in the most powerful position to mobilize thousands of workers in defense of this fundamental right. We look forward to hearing from you and planning next steps.

Yours in struggle and solidarity,

Name

Affiliation and position (* for ID only)

City, State

Email

Name _____ Affiliation and position (* for ID only) _____

City, State _____ Email _____

Name _____ Affiliation and position (* for ID only) _____

City, State _____ Email _____

Name _____ Affiliation and position (* for ID only) _____

City, State _____ Email _____

Supporting the call for an emergency labor conference in defense of reproductive justice

UNIONS ACT-UAW Local 7902 • Alphabet Workers Union • American Federation of Government Employees Local 3197 • American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 88 • American Federation of Teachers Local 1931 • Communication Workers of America Local 7800 • Cornish Federation of Teachers, AFT Local 4169 • International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 11 • International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 46 • International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 520 • Minnesota Nurses Association • National Organization of Legal Services Workers, UAW Local 2320 • Office & Professional Employees International Union Local 8 • Rutgers Adjunct Faculty Union, PTLFC-AAUP-AFT • Union of American Physicians and Dentists (UAPD) • United Auto Workers Local 2324 • Washington Federation of State Employees Local 304 • **Non-AFL-CIO** Service Employees International Union Local 1021

PARTIAL LIST OF GROUPS AFSCME CA Retirees Chapter 57 • A. Philip Randolph Institute Seattle • Brooklyn For Reproductive and Gender Equity • Coalition of Labor Union Women (national & TX) • Columbia, SC National Organization for Women • Electrical Workers Minority Caucus, Austin Chapter • Freedom Socialist Party • Labor for Black Lives • Newark Education Workers (NEW) Caucus • Oregon Coalition of Black Trade Unionists • Organized Workers for Labor Solidarity • Pacific Northwest Labor History Association • Portland (OR) Jobs with Justice • Radical Women • Rosie's Machinists 751

SELECTED INDIVIDUALS Linda Gordon, Professor Emerita of History, New York University • Cindy Hahamovitch, President, Labor and Working Class History Association* • Tony Kushner, playwright, Writers Guild of America - East* • Dorothy Manevich, Chair, UAW Massachusetts CAP Council • Sara Nelson, International President, Association of Flight Attendants - CWA* • Robert Ovetz, Ph.D., UCAFT and California Faculty Association member* • David Roediger, American Federation of Teachers member* • Tina Turner-Morfitt, Chapter President, Oregon Coalition of Black Trade Unionists • and 250 more!

Return to **National Mobilization for Reproductive Justice** • Fax 206-985-8965 • info@reprojusticenow.org
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