

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

Abusive people use tactics such as rape, coerced sex, rapid repeat pregnancy, contraceptive sabotage, physical abuse to cause a miscarriage, and forced pregnancy or forced abortion, as effective ways to gain control over their partners or ex-partners. Without safe, legal, and accessible abortion care, survivors and their children risk long-term entrapment in violent relationships. This entrapment often leads to heightened abuse and even death, including during pregnancy.

As domestic violence advocates, we know how important it is for survivors to have the freedom and options they need to care for themselves and their families.

A few key messages:

- Every survivor deserves the right to make decisions about their bodies and lives, free from violence, coercion, and control from abusive partners or unjust laws.
- As domestic violence advocates, we know that reproductive coercion is a major part of domestic abuse.
- For many communities throughout our nation's history, reproductive justice has not been a reality.
- Criminalizing reproductive healthcare like abortion emboldens abusive partners and puts survivors and those who help them at risk for criminalization.
- We have worked for decades to advance and protect reproductive rights and support, including the right to safe, legal contraception, economic support for survivor households, and abortion.

Survivors are safest when they have the freedom to write their own futures.