

Open Letter to Elizabeth 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 of endorsing organization or individual

Individual's affiliation and position (for ID only?)

Street Address

City, State, Postal Code

Phone

Email

Contact name and date
