

Sample Letter to Political & Other Leaders

Below is sample text for a letter you can send alone or as a cover letter with the Political Kit (downloadable at TheUnChoice.com/resources.htm) to raise awareness. Delete this section; print on your own letterhead or paper.

The Honorable (Full Name) OR
U.S. Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable (Full Name) OR
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Political Leader's Name
Address
City, State ZIP

Dear Senator (OR Representative OR Leader's Name):

New studies show that most abortions are unwanted or coerced. Many are forced. (See "Forced Abortion in America," downloadable at TheUnChoice.com.) These injustices are traumatic and dangerous to those already hurt and to others still at risk.

Abortion has proven to be a profound injustice and danger to both the unborn and teens, women and families at risk of everything from coercion and deceptive counseling to post-abortion heartbreak, health injuries or death in abortion's aftermath. Studies indicate that opposition to abortion-on-demand among women is growing.

Polls show Americans are united in their support for a response to this issue that is *both* pro-woman and pro-life.

The Rhetoric of Choice Hides the Reality of Coercion

Published studies document the problem of unwanted, coerced and even forced abortions, and the fact that abortion is a traumatic experience for most women and much more dangerous than most Americans realize.

- 64% of women having abortions reported feeling pressured by others to abort.¹
- Coercion can escalate to violence. Homicide is the leading killer of pregnant women.²
- Even though the majority felt rushed, 67% of aborting women received no counseling beforehand.¹
- 84% received inadequate counseling.¹
- 31% suffered health complications after abortion.¹
- 65% suffered multiple symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.¹
- Women who abort are 3.5 times more likely to die within a year compared to women who give birth.³
- Suicide rates are 6-7 times higher compared to women who give birth.⁴

The circumstances surrounding abortion vary, but the injustice of coercion and the trauma of the experience plus post-abortion injury, grief and death are real. Over 50 million women and men have lost a child to abortion. This heartbreak is profound and far-reaching, yet often silenced. It's time to acknowledge abortion's injustice and human rights abuses to women and others. It's time to offer women full information, authentic support and real choices. It's time to unify a divided nation and open the door to healing.

Pro-Woman/Pro-Life

Polling data indicates that Americans believe coercion is common and most American women *oppose* abortion on demand.⁵ You'll unify Americans by acknowledging abortion's injustice, trauma and harm to everyone involved and challenging our society to a more compassionate and constructive response that is *both* pro-woman and pro-life. You are welcome to use examples and facts from these key resources, downloadable at TheUnChoice.com.

- **Portraits of Coercion flyer** ... a quick overview, plus new facts about unwanted or coerced abortion
- **Forced Abortion in America** ... fact sheet or booklet
- **Top 10 Reasons it's The UnChoice** ... new evidence changes conventional wisdom about "choice"
- **The UnChoice Definition** ... why "choice" in the conventional sense of the term doesn't apply
- **Teens & Abortion fact sheet** ... facts that every parent deserves to know
- **What Every American Needs to Know** ... a proactive response to the sensitive abortion issue

Compassionate, Proactive Leadership

Take a look at the enclosed key messages, fact sheets and other materials. You can also find surprising new research, first-hand stories and more information at www.TheUnChoice.com. You can address the concern of millions of compassionate Americans by stating your support for authentically pro-woman legislation that:

- Holds abortionists accountable for failing to screen for coerced and unwanted abortions;
- Advocates for women's rights to full disclosure and freedom from coercion;
- Requires physicians to screen patients for factors that place them at higher risk of physical or psychological complications after abortion;
- Calls for further research on the physical and psychological complications of abortion; and
- Expands the rights of women to compensation for physical or psychological injury resulting from abortion.

Americans will support leaders who advocate for authentic women's rights. We will support political leaders who will lead Americans into a unified pro-woman/pro-life future.

Sincerely,

Citations

1. VM Rue et. al., "Induced abortion and traumatic stress: A preliminary comparison of American and Russian women," *Medical Science Monitor* 10(10): SR5-16 (2004).
2. IL Horton and D Cheng, "Enhanced Surveillance for Pregnancy-Associated Mortality-Maryland, 1993-1998," *JAMA* 285(11): 1455-1459 (2001); see also J. McFarlane et. al., "Abuse During Pregnancy and Femicide: Urgent Implications for Women's Health," *Obstetrics & Gynecology* 100: 27-36 (2002); and the Special Report, "Forced Abortion in America" at www.theunchoice.com/resources.htm.
3. M Gissler et. al., "Pregnancy Associated Deaths in Finland 1987-1994 -- definition problems and benefits of record linkage," *Acta Obstetrica et Gynecologica Scandinavica* 76:651-657, 1997. This study examined death rates following abortion and childbirth for one year after pregnancy. A study of U.S. women that examined death rates after abortion or childbirth over an eight-year period found that women who aborted had a 62 percent higher risk of death compared to women who gave birth. See DC Reardon et. al., "Deaths Associated With Pregnancy Outcome: A Record Linkage Study of Low Income Women," *Southern Medical Journal* 95(8):834-41 (Aug. 2002).
4. Gissler, Hemminki & Lonnqvist, "Suicides after pregnancy in Finland, 1987-94: register linkage study," *British Journal of Medicine* 313:1431-4, (1996); and M Gissler, "Injury deaths, suicides and homicides associated with pregnancy, Finland 1987-2000," *European J. Public Health* 15(5):459-63 (2005). These studies examined suicide rates following abortion and childbirth for one year after pregnancy. A U.S. study that examined suicide rates for a period of eight years following abortion or childbirth found that women who aborted were 2.5 times more likely to commit suicide than women who gave birth. See DC Reardon et. al., "Deaths Associated With Pregnancy Outcome: A Record Linkage Study of Low Income Women," *Southern Medical Journal* 95(8):834-41 (Aug. 2002).
5. "Is Your Mother's Feminism Dead? New Agenda for Women Revealed in Landmark Two-Year Study," news release from the Center for the Advancement of Women (www.advancewomen.org), June 24, 2003; and Steve Ertelt, "Pro-Abortion Poll Shows Majority of Women Are Pro-Life," *LifeNews.com*, June 25, 2003.