



FREEDOM IS FOR
EVERYBODY

To our supporters,

A friend recently said to me that it is important to make the implicit, explicit. **I want to be explicit that the fight for reproductive freedom is intrinsically connected to racial justice. I also want to be explicit that Black Lives Matter.** To the Black people and people of color reading this letter, I see you, I hear you, and I am listening.

We all must do our part to address systemic racism and, for us, that means continuing to fight for reproductive freedom. Reproductive freedom is the freedom to choose if, when, and how to become a parent, and to be able to safely raise a family. George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery should all be alive today. Black parents should be able to raise their children without fear that they will be hurt or killed.

NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts is fighting for the ROE Act because we know that **barriers to reproductive health care disproportionately impact [communities of color](#). People must have access to the care they need, free from stigma and shame.**

For centuries, women of color have faced reproductive oppression rooted in systemic racism. Some recent examples:

- The Hyde Amendment prohibits federal funds from being used to provide abortion care for women on Medicaid, [disproportionately impacting communities of color](#) and denying them access to abortion care.
- Indian Health Services [forcibly sterilized thousands of Native American women](#) without their consent in the 1960s and 1970s.
- Black women are [three to four times more likely to experience complications during pregnancy and childbirth than White women](#).
- Latina women have [HIV infections rates three times that of White women](#).

As SisterSong, founders and leaders of the reproductive justice movement, make clear, [protecting the right to choose isn't enough](#). The right to choose is meaningless if one cannot access reproductive health care. The right to choose is not a real choice if all people cannot also raise a family safe from police brutality. Structural and institutional racism are barriers to reproductive health care and reproductive freedom.



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That's why we are fighting for the ROE Act and [for legislation this session which would begin to systematically address the barriers black women face in the medical system](#) before, during, and after childbirth.

For white people, it is essential we educate ourselves and stay informed. It is not the job of communities of color to be racism and injustice educators. We must educate ourselves about racial justice and do the work to address it in our own lives (Not sure where to start? Check out [this resource](#)). We are responsible for taking meaningful action to eradicate access to barriers created by systemic racism. We are responsible for being part of the solution.

In solidarity,



A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Rebecca Hart Holder".

Rebecca Hart Holder
Executive Director
NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts