



HOW TO TALK TO YOUR PRO-ABORTION FRIENDS AND FAMILY ABOUT D.C. STATEHOOD

D.C. has long been an abortion safe haven, and abortion is still legal in the District. Go to www.abortionfinder.org to find and schedule abortion care.

With the Dobbs decision taking the federal right to an abortion away, D.C. statehood could protect and expand abortion care for all. To become a state, we need all hands on deck!

Here are some tips on how to talk to your pro-abortion friends and family across the country about helping to make D.C. the 51st state.

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT ABORTION IN D.C.

Abortion is still safe and legal in D.C. because people in our community demanded their reproductive health care be protected against cruel attacks. As it stands, the D.C. Council has been a champion of reproductive rights, including passing a law in 2017 that made it illegal to discriminate against healthcare professionals who provide or publicly support abortions. Here's what you need to know about abortion in D.C., and what you can do to ensure that every person in D.C. can get a safe abortion when they need it.

1. Abortion at any stage of pregnancy is legal, including late-stage and third trimester procedures. To learn more about or to schedule abortion services in the District, contact local providers or visit Metro D.C.'s Planned Parenthood's website.
2. People younger than 18 do not need to notify or get permission from their parents or guardians to get an abortion. Check out the Young Women's Project for more information and support.
3. People can travel to the District to get a legal abortion. D.C. has long been a safe haven for people from states that restrict abortion. The National Network of Abortion Funds shows which abortion funds can help pay for travel and lodging.
4. Medicaid cannot pay for abortions in D.C. because of Congress. Because D.C. is not yet a state, Congress, where D.C. residents have no voting representation, has control how District dollars are spent. Right now, the Dornan Amendment prevents Medicaid dollars from being spent on abortions.
5. Abortion funding is available through the DC Abortion Fund (202-452-7564) and the National Network of Abortion Funds.

The ACLU of D.C. will never stop fighting for our right to decide when and if to have a child. We the People of D.C. can and will work together to provide safe and accessible abortions for all.

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1. Ask open-ended questions about their reaction to the Dobbs decision.
2. Share the facts with pro-abortion friends and family.
 - **WHAT WE WANT:** Post-Dobbs, D.C. residents and local lawmakers want to ensure that anyone who needs an abortion can safely get this critical healthcare.
 - **THE CONTEXT:** D.C. has long been a safe haven for District residents and people from around the country who need an abortion.
 - **THE PROBLEM:** As a “federal district,” D.C. lacks the same level of autonomy over its laws and budget that states have.
 - Members of Congress, none of whom were elected by D.C. voters, can strike down or repeal laws and can dictate how D.C. spends our own tax dollars.
 - For example, Congress imposed The Dornan Amendment - the District’s only abortion restriction, which says that Medicaid dollars cannot pay for abortions. This restriction means that BIPOC and low-income communities have to jump significant hurdles to get abortion care.
 - **THE SOLUTION:** To protect and expand abortion access, everyone in every state can help make D.C. the 51st state.
 - Statehood would mean that District residents and lawmakers can protect and expand our status as an abortion safe haven.
 - Statehood would also mean more federal legislators who would vote on federal abortion legislation and Supreme Court justices.
 - District residents need our friends and family in other states to pressure their Congresspeople to make DC the 51st state. Congress and the President must pass a law to make D.C. a state.
3. Ask them what they think about D.C. statehood.
4. Ask them to act based on how they respond to statehood.
 - If they're ready to act, they can go to acludc.org/statehoodsupport to send their Representatives and Senators a message.
 - If they're not sure or don't agree, they can learn more at acludc.org/statehood.

To stay informed and for ways to get involved in the District, visit acludc.org and follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#).