

MEMORANDUM

To: Senate Democrats
From: Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee Staff
Re: President Trump's Appointments at HHS: A Dangerous Direction for Women's Health
Date: June 5, 2017

As you have seen, President Trump has appointed Charmaine Yoest as Assistant Secretary of Public Affairs and Teresa Manning as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), where serve as the lead policy experts on a number of programs and services that affect women's health. Both positions are appointments made at the pleasure of the President and do not require the advice and consent of the Senate. Alarming, these two individuals are among the most outspoken opponents nationally of programs, policies, and practices that advance women's access to healthcare, and both have dedicated their careers to opposing constitutionally-protected reproductive health care, including safe, legal abortion.

We write to make sure you are aware of the extreme degree to which, over the course of their careers, Ms. Yoest and Ms. Manning have prioritized undermining women's access to basic healthcare services like family planning services and have sought to roll back women's reproductive rights—including by spreading misinformation. Ms. Yoest and Ms. Manning's goals run directly counter to the Department's mission to "enhance and protect the health and well-being of all Americans," and the missions of the programs and offices they directly oversee and lead for the country. Their appointments can and will only accelerate President Trump and Vice President Pence's plans to roll back women's health, undermine past progress toward LGBTQ equality, and move HHS in a dangerous direction.¹

As Congressional Democrats continue efforts to counter the Trump Administration's deeply harmful approach toward women's health and rights, close oversight of HHS's actions under this Administration remain critical.

Charmaine Yoest, Assistant Secretary of Public Affairs

Career-long record of seeking to undermine access to safe, legal abortion

On April 28, President Trump announced that Charmaine Yoest will serve as Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs (ASPA) at HHS.² Until her appointment, Yoest was a senior fellow at American Values, an organization that describes itself as "deeply committed to defending life, traditional marriage and equipping our children with the values necessary to stand against liberal education and cultural forces."³ Yoest previously served as the president of Americans United for Life (AUL), which works through the legislative and legal process to advance a national anti-

¹ <https://www.hhs.gov/about/index.html>

² <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2017/04/28/president-donald-j-trump-announces-key-additions-his-administration>

³ <https://www.ouramericanvalues.org/about-us>

abortion agenda.⁴ This agenda has led to a proliferation of TRAP (Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers) laws across states and in the federal government that restrict and end access to reproductive healthcare.⁵ AUL's website describes Yoest as "'public enemy #1' to many in the pro-abortion community."⁶ Yoest also worked as communications director for former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee's presidential campaign and as vice president for communications for the Family Research Council, whose stated mission is "to advance faith, family and freedom in public policy and the culture from a Christian worldview."⁷ The Southern Poverty Law Center identifies the Family Research Council as an anti-LGBTQ hate group.⁸

Yoest has broad influence on informing the public about health matters

As Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs (ASPA), Yoest is responsible for providing leadership, policy direction, and strategy for all of HHS's public affairs programs and activities.⁹ Like other Assistant Secretaries within HHS, the ASPA regularly attends Secretarial meetings, weighs in on high-level policy issues across the entire jurisdiction of the Department, and often acts as a proxy for the Secretary on communications decisions. In a speech in early May, Secretary Price applauded efforts to make the position more "forward leaning" instead of having it serve only as a clearinghouse for public statements from HHS sub-agencies.¹⁰ According to the HHS website, the ASPA serves as the principal point of contact on communications and press issues; ensures coordination among the public affairs components; manages issues and activities that cut across multiple operating divisions; and leads emergency incident communication strategies and activities.¹¹ As the ASPA, Yoest is also responsible for overseeing the document clearance process, including administration of requests under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act. Under the Obama Administration, the ASPA led an office of 80 employees and managed communications on a number of high-profile issues, including responses to disease outbreaks, legal challenges to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and roll out of communications surrounding the ACA's open enrollment periods.¹²

Yoest's appointment raises serious concerns about the tone of communications we can expect from HHS and the Trump Administration, particularly in the area of women's health. Like Secretary Price, Yoest is vehemently anti-choice, supports defunding Planned Parenthood, and opposes some forms of contraception. Yoest will likely use her position in charge of HHS's communications office to advance an agenda that is harmful to health and anti-women. Yoest also has shown a troubling propensity to spread misinformation, which is especially dangerous for an individual tasked with communicating health information on behalf of the U.S.

⁴ <http://www.aul.org/about-aul/>

⁵ <https://www.gutmacher.org/state-policy/explore/targeted-regulation-abortion-providers>

⁶ <http://www.aul.org/what-people-are-saying-about-charmaine-yoest/>

⁷ <http://www.frc.org/mission-statement>; https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/ezra-klein/post/meet-the-woman-who-got-komen-to-defund-planned-parenthood/2012/02/02/gIA5DcVkQ_blog.html?utm_term=.f5af490b15bd; <http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Society/2011/0813/Abortion-opponents-have-a-new-voice>

⁸ <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/ideology/anti-lgbt>

⁹ <https://www.hhs.gov/about/agencies/aspa/aspa-organization/index.html>

¹⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qaW6mtL2QbY>

¹¹ <https://www.hhs.gov/about/agencies/aspa/aspa-organization/index.html>

¹² <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/about-us/newsroom/press-releases/planned-parenthood-names-top-hhs-official-kevin-griffis-as-vice-president-for-communications>

Government. For example, ensuring evidence-based and accurate information on family planning services has been critical to lowering the teenage pregnancy rates, as well as combatting public health threats like Zika.¹³ Any efforts by Yoest to apply her extreme views on reproductive healthcare or other critical issues to the mission and policies of the Department will be a significant reversal of decades of progress for women.

Yoest has repeatedly made extreme and false assertions to promote an anti-choice agenda

Yoest is passionately anti-choice; she believes that **“a society that presents abortion as an option is putting women in harm’s way.”**¹⁴

- In a 2014 blog post, Yoest argued that abortion is akin to **“a modern amphitheatre of death,”** citing a statistic that “over 4,000 babies are killed in abortion clinics” every day. She continued, “someday, the cheers will end for abortion too. This gruesome barbarism will join gladiatorial contests, and slavery, in the category of those things that are unimaginable.”¹⁵
- Yoest even **opposes abortion in limited circumstances, such as rape and to save a woman’s life.** Abortion in these circumstances has long received bipartisan support.
 - Yoest **opposes abortion in cases of rape.** The *Christian Science Monitor* wrote, “Ms. Yoest says that she is sorry for the pain of the mother. But heaping tragedy on tragedy is no solution. Abortion, she says, ‘only adds more irrevocable sorrow.’”¹⁶
 - Yoest **opposes abortion when the women’s health is in danger,** even if the situation is life threatening. She stated, “If a woman is facing a pregnancy that threatens her life, I would make sure she knew a real pro-life doctor who would treat her and her baby as two patients.”¹⁷

Yoest **actively uses “fake facts” and spreads misinformation about women’s health.**

- Yoest believes that abortion increases a woman’s risk of breast cancer, stating, “As a breast cancer survivor, the spin on abortion and breast cancer really troubles me.” In support of her position, Yoest cites research by the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologist (AAPOLG), who she argues “could walk you through the data.” She believes the scientific establishment “is under the control of the abortion lobby.”¹⁸
 - This is false. The National Cancer Institute, the American Cancer Society, and the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) have shown there is no link between abortion and breast cancer.¹⁹

¹³ <https://www.brookings.edu/research/policy-solutions-for-preventing-unplanned-pregnancy/> ;

<https://www.cdc.gov/zika/hc-providers/reproductive-age/reproductive-planning.html>

¹⁴ <http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Society/2011/0813/Abortion-opponents-have-a-new-voice>

¹⁵ <http://charmaineyoest.com/2014/05/the-colosseum-cross>. In 2014, the most recent year for which data is available, approximately 925,000 abortions were performed. This amounts to just over 2,500 abortions each day. <https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/induced-abortion-united-states#2>

¹⁶ <http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Society/2011/0813/Abortion-opponents-have-a-new-voice>

¹⁷ <http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Society/2011/0813/Abortion-opponents-have-a-new-voice>

¹⁸ <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/04/magazine/charmaine-yoests-cheerful-war-on-abortion.html>

¹⁹ <https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/causes-prevention/risk/hormones/reproductive-history-fact-sheet#q4>;
<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/cancer-causes/medical-treatments/abortion-and-breast-cancer-risk.html>;

- Yoest **opposes use of IUDs as a form of birth control**, arguing the device “has life-ending properties.”²⁰
 - This is false. IUDs do not work after implantation and therefore cannot end pregnancies.²¹ Additionally, recent data from the Guttmacher Institute found that unplanned pregnancies are at a 30-year low, largely due to an increase in the use of long-acting reversible contraceptives like IUDs.²² The ACA has been critical in increasing access to IUDs by removing cost barriers for women seeking contraceptive services.²³
- Yoest touts very dangerous views that promote sexual assault culture, stating, “**when it comes to rape, women tell the truth about half the time.**”²⁴ She went on, “When a woman cries, ‘Rape,’ a crime *has* been committed. The challenge for cops is, who is the criminal – the man or the woman? Either a rape has occurred [*sic*]. Or a slander has occurred [*sic*]. The police officer could flip a coin to determine truth with equal statistical probability.”
 - No woman should be questioned for coming forward with an allegation of sexual assault. In fact, most women are scared of reporting, and only about 35 percent of women report this crime.²⁵ Nearly one in five women report experiencing rape at some time in their lives.²⁶ While it is difficult to collect data on unfounded reports of rape, the likely prevalence of false reporting is between two and 10 percent.²⁷
- Yoest has defended state laws that require doctors to inform women that medication abortions can be “reversed,” stating, “No medical reason exists to deny mothers the opportunity to choose life by sharing with them all their options.”²⁸
 - According to ACOG, “Claims of medication abortion reversal are not supported by the body of scientific evidence, and this approach is not recommended in ACOG’s clinical guidance on medication abortion.”²⁹ High doses of progesterone – as recommended under the state laws requiring counseling on such “reversals” – may in fact have negative health effects for women.³⁰

<http://www.acog.org/Resources-And-Publications/Committee-Opinions/Committee-on-Gynecologic-Practice/Induced-Abortion-and-Breast-Cancer-Risk>

²⁰ <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/11/04/magazine/charmaine-yoests-cheerful-war-on-abortion.html>

²¹ <http://www.acog.org/-/media/Departments/Government-Relations-and-Outreach/FactsAreImportantEC.pdf?dmc=1>

²² <https://www.guttmacher.org/news-release/2016/us-unintended-pregnancy-rate-falls-30-year-low-declines-seen-almost-all-groups>

²³ <https://www.healthcare.gov/coverage/birth-control-benefits/> ;

http://www.slate.com/blogs/xx_factor/2017/01/18/iuds_and_mammograms_are_free_under_obamacare_how_much_will_you_pay_if_it.html

²⁴ <http://themoryhole2.org/blog/yoest-deletions>

²⁵ <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/fvsv9410.pdf> ;

http://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/publications_nsvrc_factsheet_media_packet_statistics-about-sexual-violence_0.pdf

²⁶ <https://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/pdf/SV-DataSheet-a.pdf>

²⁷ http://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/Publications_NSVRC_Overview_False-Reporting.pdf

²⁸ https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-nation/wp/2015/04/07/arizona-arkansas-tell-women-drug-induced-abortion-can-be-reversed/?utm_term=.47063ca84729

²⁹

<http://www.acog.org/~media/departments/state%20legislative%20activities/2015AZFactSheetMedicationAbortionReversalfinal.pdf>

³⁰ <https://www.guttmacher.org/evidence-you-can-use/medication-abortion>

Yoest has been a **leader in the fight against our nation’s leading women’s health provider, Planned Parenthood**, stating, “Over the last 45 years, Planned Parenthood has become the expert in making money from ending lives.”³¹

- Yoest was credited as “the woman who got Komen to defund Planned Parenthood” in a 2012 profile.³² A 2011 report authored by the AUL, titled “The Case for Investigating Planned Parenthood,” prompted an investigation by the Republican-led House Energy and Commerce Committee. In February 2012, the Susan G. Komen Foundation announced its decision not to provide grant money to Planned Parenthood, citing its policy not to fund organizations under investigation. Yoest stated that announcement was “some of the best news of my entire life.”
 - Though Yoest applauded the news, Komen received significant criticism for its decision. Senate Democrats wrote a letter to Komen, writing, “It would be tragic if any woman—let alone thousands of women— lost access to these potentially life-saving screenings because of a politically motivated attack.”³³ Komen changed their policy and restored funding to Planned Parenthood several days later.³⁴
- In response to reports that abortion rates are on the decline, Yoest attacked Planned Parenthood, saying its “abortion sales are up,” while its other services were down. She went on to say, “[t]his is as a result of a move to create abortion mega-centers to mass-produce abortions at an even deadlier rate.”³⁵
 - Recent analysis from the Guttmacher Institute found that abortion rates are at a 40-year historic low and continue to decline.³⁶ Further, teen pregnancy rates are at their lowest point in history.³⁷
 - Planned Parenthood provides women and families with critical care from cancer screenings, family planning services, and primary care. In fact, one in five women will use Planned Parenthood as her health care provider.³⁸ We should be investing in women’s health, not targeting our nation’s most trusted provider of care.

Yoest has repeatedly made highly offensive anti-LGBTQ statements

In addition to her statements and beliefs that are anti-women’s health, Yoest’s appointment is also a dangerous direction for LGBTQ Americans. Yoest has repeatedly made highly offensive anti-LGBTQ comments. Yoest has been particularly vocal in her comments **opposing transgender equality**.

³¹ <http://www.lifenews.com/2017/04/28/president-trump-named-pro-life-leader-to-key-hhs-post-replacing-a-planned-parenthood-activist/>

³² https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/ezra-klein/post/meet-the-woman-who-got-komen-to-defund-planned-parenthood/2012/02/02/gIA5DcVkJ_blog.html?utm_term=.f5af490b15bd

³³ <http://articles.latimes.com/2012/feb/02/news/la-heb-house-senate-letter-komen-20120202>

³⁴ http://www.slate.com/blogs/xx_factor/2012/02/03/susan_g_komen_foundation_apologizes_for_pulling_funding_from_planned_parenthood.html

³⁵ <http://www.lifenews.com/2017/04/28/president-trump-named-pro-life-leader-to-key-hhs-post-replacing-a-planned-parenthood-activist/>

³⁶ <https://www.guttmacher.org/news-release/2017/us-abortion-rate-continues-decline-hits-historic-low>

³⁷ <https://www.guttmacher.org/news-release/2016/us-teen-pregnancy-birth-and-abortion-rates-reach-lowest-levels-almost-four-decades>

³⁸ https://www.plannedparenthood.org/files/1914/0545/1511/PPMNS_by_the_numbers.pdf

Yoest and her husband operate a blog called Reasoned Audacity, housed at charmaineyoest.com. A number of their blog posts containing hateful, anti-LGBTQ comments have been deleted. Throughout her blog posts, extremely offensive and inaccurate terminology is used that dehumanizes transgender Americans, referring to transgender people as “creatures.”

- From a blog post on charmaineyoest.com, “Transgender genders will sometimes, but not necessarily, amputate a perfectly normal (ahem, edited by the prudish spouse). I believe it is in bad form to actually ask a Transgender if this elective surgery is part of his/her/its medical history. You are right: Your Business Blogger should not be poking fun at anyone who would take a meat cleaver to his manhood. You see, these creatures are crazy, I believe.”³⁹
- A second blog post on charmaineyoest.com reads, “please don’t ask me about trans-gender: If you take a meat cleaver to your manhood, there would probably not be a fit between us. Because you would be crazy.”⁴⁰
- Yoest **perpetuates the misguided narrative that being LGBTQ is an illness.** In a Fox News interview, Yoest described a transgender individual as “somebody who’s wrestling with a disorder.”⁴¹
- Yoest **opposed efforts to allow transgender people to obtain a birth certificate consistent with their gender identity**, saying, “public policy has to stay rooted in common sense and in reality” and attempts to “redefine what normal is” will result in “real world, real life problems.”⁴²
- Yoest **led an effort by the Family Research Council to oppose hate crimes legislation.** In a telephone campaign targeted at Senator Alexander, an audio excerpt featuring Yoest’s voice urged Senator Alexander to “vote ‘no’ on any hate crimes bill that grants special protection to people because of their sexual preferences.”⁴³

Teresa Manning, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs

Manning held leadership positions at extreme, anti-choice organizations

On May 2, President Trump appointed Teresa Manning as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs at HHS.⁴⁴ Manning was previously a lobbyist with the National Right to Life Committee, which describes itself as “the nation’s oldest and largest pro-life organization” dedicated to protecting “the most defenseless members of our society who are threatened by abortion, infanticide, assisted suicide and euthanasia.”⁴⁵ Like Yoest, Manning also worked at the Family Research Council, which espouses extremely conservative beliefs, including strong

³⁹ [https://web-](https://web-beta.archive.org/web/20170428205200/http://charmaineyoest.com/2006/11/charmaine_debates_transgender)

[beta.archive.org/web/20170428205200/http://charmaineyoest.com/2006/11/charmaine_debates_transgender](https://web-beta.archive.org/web/20170428205200/http://charmaineyoest.com/2006/11/charmaine_debates_transgender)

⁴⁰ <http://themoryhole2.org/blog/yoest-deletions>

⁴¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=REZ4NuLmm-k>

⁴² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=REZ4NuLmm-k>

⁴³

http://web.archive.org/web/20080517042129/http://www.nashvillepost.com/news/2007/7/24/family_research_council_targets_lamar_over_hatecrimes_bill

⁴⁴ https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/wp/2017/05/01/trump-picks-antiabortion-activist-to-head-hhs-family-planning-program/?utm_term=.f0d6d41b0bf4

⁴⁵ <http://www.nrlc.org/about/>

opposition to abortion.⁴⁶ Manning has dedicated the last several years to a lawsuit against the University of Iowa, alleging they discriminated against her based on her conservative and anti-abortion beliefs.⁴⁷

Manning oversees the nation's Title X program, which is dedicated to providing comprehensive family planning and preventive care to low-income women and families, particularly in rural areas.

As Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs, Manning is responsible for leading the Office of Population Affairs (OPA).⁴⁸ She is tasked with advising and leading national policy on reproductive healthcare, including family planning services, birth control, and teen pregnancy prevention. Of critical importance, OPA administers the Title X program, a federal grant program, started by President Nixon, dedicated to providing comprehensive family planning and related preventive care.⁴⁹ According to OPA's latest Family Planning Annual Report, over four million people received Title-X funded family planning services from health centers in the United States in 2015 alone.⁵⁰ A Guttmacher study found, "services provided by clinics that received Title X funding helped women avert 822,300 unintended pregnancies in 2015, thus preventing 387,200 unplanned births and 277,000 abortions."⁵¹ Title X health centers also play a critical role for providing healthcare in rural and frontier areas.

The most recent acting head of the OPA, Susan Moskosky, served in the office as deputy director and the director of the Office of Family Planning for more than a decade.⁵² In 2014, she led OPA in a partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to develop federal evidence-based recommendations for family planning services delivery. She is a certified women's health nurse practitioner. Her predecessor, Marilyn J. Keefe, served as the Director of Reproductive Health Programs for the National Partnership for Women & Families and served as the Vice President for Public Policy at the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association.⁵³ By contrast, Manning's most recent career has been as a law school teacher, and she has no experience leading a family planning or any other healthcare organization.

Manning's leadership of OPA, based on her inexperience and highly troubling positions on women, raises grave concerns about access to preventive services, treatment, and information for the millions of women and families who rely on Title X-funded clinics. President Trump and Congressional Republicans have already taken steps to undermine the federal government's family planning programs by passing into law a measure that allows states to discriminate

⁴⁶ https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/wp/2017/05/01/trump-picks-antiabortion-activist-to-head-hhs-family-planning-program/?utm_term=.f0d6d41b0bf4

⁴⁷ <http://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/331371-trump-to-name-anti-abortion-advocate-to-lead-federal-family-planning>

⁴⁸ <https://www.hhs.gov/opa/>

⁴⁹ <https://www.hhs.gov/opa/title-x-family-planning/about-title-x-grants/index.html>

⁵⁰ <https://www.hhs.gov/opa/sites/default/files/title-x-fpar-2015.pdf>

⁵¹ <https://www.guttmacher.org/report/publicly-funded-contraceptive-services-us-clinics-2015>

⁵² <https://www.hhs.gov/opa/about-opa/leadership/index.html>

⁵³

against family planning providers in the Title X program.⁵⁴ In every state that has done so thus far, Title X funding has been withheld from providers that perform abortions.⁵⁵ Any additional efforts Manning leads to undermine or restrict the services provided through Title X will result in significant harm to women across the U.S.

Manning has espoused starkly anti-choice views, spread misinformation about women's health care needs, and opposes contraception

Manning is **strongly anti-abortion**, stating, “[t]he dismemberment of a child within the womb is as much a violation of a child’s human rights as stabbing the child’s head when he or she is almost fully outside the womb.”⁵⁶

- Manning strongly **opposed the FDA’s approval of a medication abortion drug**, mifepristone, stating the approval “could result in more abortions and therefore more dead babies and injured women.”⁵⁷ In a *Washington Times* op-ed, Manning wrote, “That the FDA is so willing to put women at risk-to the point where it protects drug companies more than an injured woman plaintiff -should bother all concerned. It has never been so clear that the interests of the abortion lobby are at odds with the interests of women.”⁵⁸
 - Mifepristone is used together with another medication called misoprostol, to end an early pregnancy. In 2016, FDA approved a supplemental application for mifepristone to extend approved uses for the drug.⁵⁹ ACOG applauded the decision, noting, “15 years of use of mifepristone for induced abortion has not just proven it to be safe and effective, but have also supported an evidence-based regimen that improves care and the personal experience for women who find that it is the right choice for them.”⁶⁰ In response to FDA’s decision, AUL and other anti-abortion groups have urged states to restrict access to medication abortions.⁶¹
- Manning **believes that the United Nations’ Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a tool to promote abortion**. She wrote that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights “has become a tool for those who would reduce man to a material, autonomous self, necessarily preoccupied with his own wants” that has been invoked “to advance abortion, homosexuality, euthanasia and other destructive causes, which invariably victimize some human beings for the benefit of others.”⁶²
 - The Universal Declaration, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights together make up the International Bill of Rights, which obligates signatories to provide equal rights for women and men.⁶³ According to a 2014 report from the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, this includes gender-

⁵⁴ <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/updates/senate-vote-block-abortion-funding-affects-planned-parenthood/>

⁵⁵ <http://www.businessinsider.com/trump-states-to-withhold-funds-from-planned-parenthood-2017-4>

⁵⁶ <http://www.euthanasia.com/family.html>

⁵⁷ <http://www.albionmonitor.com/0011a/copyright/ru486.html>

⁵⁸ Teresa Wagner, A rush to market, not a remedy, *Washington Times*, Dec. 2, 2000, at A12.

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<https://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/PostmarketDrugSafetyInformationforPatientsandProviders/ucm492705.htm>

⁶⁰ <http://www.acog.org/About-ACOG/News-Room/Statements/2016/ACOG-Statement-on-Medication-Abortion>

⁶¹ <http://www.aul.org/testimony-on-hb-1086-the-abortion-pill-reversal-information-act/>

⁶² https://c-fam.org/friday_fax/family-research-council-offers-broad-critique-of-un-social-policies/

⁶³ <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Events/WHRD/WomenRightsAreHR.pdf>

based violence and reproductive health and rights, including access to safe and affordable birth control and abortion care.

- Manning **believes that abortion is the foundation of “a culture of abandonment.”** In a 2012 book, she wrote, “Make no mistake: Despite incessant clamor about rights, ours is actually a culture of abandonment. The acceptance of assisted suicide and euthanasia in this culture is almost inevitable. Abortion, of course, was the foundation.”⁶⁴

Manning spreads misinformation about women’s health.

- In a CNN interview on the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* in 2000, **Manning lied about the guidelines for a legal abortion.** She stated, “Roe legalized abortion throughout the country, that is abortion on demand, for any reason, during all nine months of pregnancy, including delivery. That’s among the most extreme abortion policies in the Western world.”⁶⁵
 - This is false. *Roe v. Wade* in fact established a trimester framework, specifically restricting abortions in the third trimester, except when abortion was necessary to preserve the health of the mother.⁶⁶ Subsequent Supreme Court decisions abandoned this trimester framework.
- Manning **accused “the abortion lobby” of exploiting women and ignoring safety,** stating, “The reality is that America’s abortion on demand industry is the most unregulated business in this country. In constitutionalizing abortion, its advocates placed it beyond safety regulation. As a result, women die.”⁶⁷
 - This is false. Federal and state laws govern the practice of abortion in the United States.⁶⁸ Furthermore, the practice of medicine is regulated by each state. According to ACOG, “Where abortion is legal, it is extremely safe.”⁶⁹ By contrast, data shows that when abortions are illegal or highly restricted, women resort to unsafe means to end a pregnancy and complications from these procedures account for nearly 13% of all maternal deaths.

Manning **opposes access to contraception, particularly emergency contraceptives like Plan B**—placing her at odds with the recommendations of leading medication organizations.

- Manning **criticized ACOG for recommending that prescribers offer advance prescriptions of the morning after pill.** In a Family Research Council press release, she stated, “A major, if not dominant, mechanism of the morning-after pill [emergency contraceptives] is the destruction of a human life already conceived. ... In failing to inform the public of this function, ACOG is deliberately misleading Americans, which is a gross violation of medical ethics (not to mention honesty).”⁷⁰

⁶⁴ https://www.homeworkmarket.com/sites/default/files/qx/15/12/12/10/wagner_full_text.pdf

⁶⁵ <http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0001/22/cst.06>.

⁶⁶ <https://mic.com/articles/23822/roe-v-wade-a-simple-explanation-of-the-most-important-scotus-decision-in-40-years#.FTGNN0ah1>

⁶⁷ Clinton Administration Ignores Unregulated Abortion Practice, FRC Says, January 22, 1999.

⁶⁸ <https://www.guttmacher.org/state-policy/explore/overview-abortion-laws>

⁶⁹ <http://www.acog.org/Resources-And-Publications/Committee-Opinions/Committee-on-Health-Care-for-Underserved-Women/Increasing-Access-to-Abortion>

⁷⁰ <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/the-morning-after-pill-can-destroy-life-doesnt-protect-against-stds-frc-says-71566472.html>

- After the **American Medical Association (AMA) approved a resolution calling for emergency contraceptives to be made available over the counter, Manning called the action “immoral” and “medically irresponsible.”** She stated, “The morning-after pill not only does not guard against these devastating conditions, it actually aggravates the situation by accepting -- and, in effect, -- promoting promiscuity -- the cause of the STD explosion, as well as the well known social problems of out of wedlock pregnancy and illegitimacy. We expect more from our doctors than collaboration with abortion advocates!”⁷¹

Yoest and Manning are joining other HHS leaders who are poised to implement the Trump Administration’s extreme, anti-woman views

Yoest and Manning have made careers out of seeking to undermine women’s health, and their views are troublingly consistent with the views of Secretary Price and other leaders in the Trump Administration who oppose efforts to protect access and coverage of women’s reproductive healthcare. They will join several other HHS appointees who have similarly dedicated their careers to attacking women’s rights and opposing constitutionally-protected reproductive healthcare.⁷²

Vice President Pence has consistently contributed to efforts to roll back key protections for women, credited as the leader of “the GOP’s war on Planned Parenthood, birth control access and abortion rights for more than five years.”⁷³ In Congress, then-Representative Pence cosponsored a bill that would have prohibited federal funds from paying for abortion except in cases of “forcible rape.” As Governor of Indiana, Pence signed multiple anti-abortion bills into law, including one measure that prohibits private insurance providers from offering abortion coverage and another that requires doctors to offer women the “remains” of the fetus after an abortion.⁷⁴ Pence has also described condoms as “too modern,” stating they are “very, very poor protection against sexually transmitted diseases.”⁷⁵

While in Congress, then-Representative Price voted nearly 50 times to roll back women’s constitutionally-protected reproductive rights, including votes to eliminate funding for Title X family planning programs. Secretary Price refuses to believe that women have faced challenges accessing contraception, stating, “Bring me one woman who’s been left behind. Bring me one. There’s not one...”⁷⁶ When Democratic Senators asked for clarification on this position in his confirmation hearings, Secretary Price dodged the question.⁷⁷

⁷¹ <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/the-morning-after-pill-can-destroy-life-doesnt-protect-against-stds-frc-says-71566472.html>

⁷² <http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/politico-pulse/2017/05/25/gops-last-minute-changes-to-health-bill-may-have-worsened-it-220505>; <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/jan/5/jane-norton-wont-give-up-fight-to-defund-planned-p/>; <http://www.frc.org/newsroom/shannon-royce-joins-family-research-council-as-chief-of-staff>

⁷³ http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/mike-pence-reproductive-rights-abortion_us_5787cc73e4b0867123e036a1

⁷⁴ http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/mike-pence-reproductive-rights-abortion_us_5787cc73e4b0867123e036a1

⁷⁵ http://www.slate.com/blogs/xx_factor/2016/07/22/mike_pence_thinks_condoms_are_too_modern_and_liberal.html

⁷⁶ <https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2016/11/tom-price-not-one-woman-cant-afford-birth-control/509003/>

⁷⁷ <https://www.murray.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/mobile/newsroom?ID=9ECCD56A-5FE9-48EB-BE3B-D7AF4091E4A0>

Secretary Price does not support abortion care for women, stating on the 2016 anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* that “[t]here is nothing more precious or more worth defending than the sanctity of life.”⁷⁸ In recognition of the March for Life, Price stated, “We remain united and hopeful in our belief that millions of lives can be saved through an unrelenting embrace of the sanctity of life.”⁷⁹

Seema Verma, the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), does not believe that coverage of maternity benefits should be mandatory for all insurance plans sold under the ACA.⁸⁰ At her confirmation hearing before the Senate Finance Committee, Verma refused to answer questions from Senator Stabenow about whether women should pay more for healthcare simply because they are women. As CMS Administrator, Verma is in charge of the government’s major health insurance programs, including the ACA marketplaces, and the federal standards for insurance plans.

The proliferation of these anti-women ideas into policies at HHS – the Department charged with protecting health and well-being – is dangerous and unfortunately consistent with the efforts undertaken thus far by the Trump Administration. Efforts to protect women’s health will require aggressive oversight and action by Democrats in Congress in partnership with constituents and advocates.

⁷⁸ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzFSIYq23LQ>

⁷⁹ <https://votesmart.org/public-statement/403715/rep-price-statement-on-march-for-life#.WRxnfuQkvnN>

⁸⁰ <http://www.latimes.com/business/hiltzik/la-fi-hiltzik-verma-maternity-20170224-story.html>