

# HAVING KIDS™

## *Child-first Advocacy*

[HavingKids.org](http://HavingKids.org)

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Ilyse Hogue  
President  
NARAL Pro-Choice America  
1156 15th Street, NW Suite 700  
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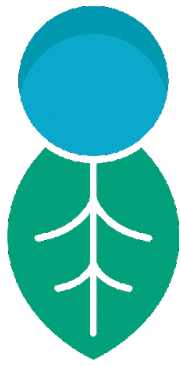
Dear Ms. Hogue,

As Trump's [domestic gag rule](#) and other threats to the right to prevent or terminate a pregnancy loom, we are writing to urge NARAL to consider amending its [statement of principles](#) and messaging.

Currently NARAL uses a version of reproductive freedom that conjoins the right to have children and not have children under one unified right, based upon autonomy. We suggest you consider unbundling the two rights, preserving the right to not have children as based upon autonomy, but embracing a more nuanced model for the right *to have* children that accounts for the interests of children, parents, and the community. We call it the [Fair Start model](#), and it has been carefully designed to undo all of the environmental and social ills caused by treating the act of having kids as an isolated act of parental autonomy.

Why should NARAL consider this arcane distinction in its principles and work? Because it will base the demand for the freedom and resources not to have children on a [broader base of objective interests](#), and make that demand more compelling, if not irrefutable.

- The most effective way to address many of the impacts on our environment and other species, like [climate change](#), is by choosing smaller families. Yes, it's [more effective](#) than changing diet or forms of transportation. Shouldn't NARAL base its demands in part on mitigating climate change, which is a [clear threat to national security](#)?
- By 2100 world population could vary by billions of people, depending on [whether the average woman in the world today has one child more or one child fewer in her lifetime](#). That fork in the road will determine the quality of life on earth, for humans and other species.
- Our current family planning systems provide [no minimum standard of wellbeing for future children](#), allowing children to be born into failing state systems because their parents cannot care for them. That exacerbates inequity, and [ensures rich kids stay rich and](#)



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[poor kids stay poor](#). Rather than leaving women in isolation, shouldn't NARAL include in its demand the right to familial resources that give kids equitable opportunities in life relative to other kids in their generation?

- [Child-first family planning](#) provides a clear human rights-based solution and path forward. It's sustainable and equitable, and reflected in the [worldwide trend towards smaller families that can invest more in each child](#) and ensure a safer future.

In short, the Fair Start model moves family planning away from the isolationism of women's choice to demands based upon the fundamental human rights that lie at the border of human power: The right we all share to a clean, safe and natural environment, as well as the right to fair starts in life for our children.

In other words, challenge Trump because his family planning policies threaten national security, and as such bring into question the legitimacy of his government, and the obligation of the people to rise up. Challenge Trump because families in need have a moral claim to a portion of his and his ilk's wealth, in order to assure their children starts in life equitable to the starts in life wealthy kids are given. The decision to have children, unlike the decision not to have children, implicates others in the most impactful of ways. We should account for that fact in our modeling and advocacy.

We stand ready to assist you with any questions you have, and in the event you are prepared to make the transition to Fair Start modeling.

Sincerely,

Anne Green

Executive Director  
Having Kids

[Having Kids](#) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to reforming family planning by replacing parent-centered family planning models with the human rights-based and child-first Fair Start model.