

September 14, 2022

Sundar Pichai Chief Executive Officer Alphabet Inc.

Christopher Phillips VP & General Manager, Geo Google

Dear Mr. Pichai and Mr. Phillips:

We are writing to ask that Google stop accepting advertisements from anti-abortion clinics, including Crisis Pregnancy Centers, due to their intentionally misleading and harmful impacts on people seeking reproductive health services.

As you know, the Supreme Court's ruling on *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* opened the door for states across the country to enact restrictions on abortion care, including outright bans and criminalization.

We believe Big Tech companies like Google have the power to protect their users from disinformation, misinformation, privacy intrusions, and harassment when they utilize your search and location services, including Google Maps and Google search.

We are deeply concerned that Google's recent <u>announcement</u> attempting to differentiate health care facilities that offer abortion services and "<u>crisis pregnancy centers</u>," which often mislead women in order to prevent them from obtaining abortion care, is not sufficient.

A recent <u>Bloomberg News</u> article describes how Google Maps "routinely misleads people looking for abortion providers." According to their analysis, "When users type the words 'abortion clinic' into the Maps search bar, crisis pregnancy centers account for about a quarter of the top 10 search results on average across all 50 US states, plus Washington D.C., …. In 13 states, including Arkansas, South Carolina and Idaho where the procedure is newly limited, five or more of the top 10 results were for CPCs, not abortion clinics."

A separate <u>analysis</u> from the Center for Countering Digital Hate found that across 13 "Trigger Law" states, 37% of all Google Maps results presented anti-abortion centers as if they were abortion care providers. In response to those findings, more than 20 members of Congress sent you a letter, dated June 17, 2022, requesting you take action.

While we believe your recent policy labeling whether or not an establishment provides abortion is a step in the right direction, it is our firm belief Google must do more to protect those seeking reproductive health services from deceptive anti-abortion groups.

Allowing anti-abortion centers to place ads on your platforms that steers unsuspecting people into the hands of those who will deny them care is unethical. The best way to prevent this is to

remove and ban intentionally misleading advertisements sponsored by anti-abortion clinics and centers, especially crisis pregnancy centers.

Over 650 of your employees have requested that Google take immediate action to protect access to abortion care, including data protections and "fixing misleading search results related to abortion services by removing results for fake abortion providers." In response to your recent labeling announcement, Alphabet Workers Union reiterated that that the labels do not go far enough; you must remove misleading results about abortion care from Google Search and Google Maps.

We implore you to take all necessary precautions and ensure that none of Google's platforms or businesses--including Google Maps and Google Search--can be used by the anti-abortion movement to mislead, harm, and misdirect people away from reproductive health and abortion care. You can accomplish this by removing and banning advertisements from anti-abortion clinics and enters. Until further action is taken, people seeking reproductive health care services, like abortion, will be vulnerable to harassment, manipulation, and have difficulty receiving necessary healthcare.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Advocacy Organizations:

UltraViolet **Doctors for America** 2+ Abortions Worldwide **Equity Forward** A Woman's Choice of Charlotte. ERA Coalition

Greensboro, Raleigh, & Jacksonville FL National Organization for Women

Abortion Access Front Friends of the Earth Abortion Care Network Frontera Fund Abortion Conversation Gen-Z for Change Abortion On Demand Gender Justice

ACCESS Reproductive Justice Global Justice Center

Advocates for Youth Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights American Humanist Association (GRR!)

Apiary for Practical Support Indivisible St. Louis

Avow Texas lpas

Jane's Due Process Blue Mountain Clinic Center for Countering Digital Hate

Chico Feminist Women's Health Center National Birth Equity Collaborative

Cobalt Advocates Nurses for Sexual and Reproductive Health Oregonizers

Kairos

Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights Our Resilience

(COLOR) Physicians for Reproductive Health Conversations for Political Change Pro Choice Missouri

Delaware NOW (National Organization for Pro-Choice Connecticut Women) Pro-Choice North Carolina Pro-Choice Washington
ProgressNow New Mexico

Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

Reproaction

Reproductive Freedom Fund of New

Hampshire

Reproductive Health Access Project Reproductive Health Access Project Reproductive Justice Action Collective

(ReJAC)

Reproductive Rights Coalition

SHERo Mississippi

SIECUS: Sex Ed for Social Change

Society of Family Planning

South Texans for Reproductive Justice SPARK Reproductive Justice Now, Inc.

Supermajority

The Florida Immigrant Coalition
The Tech Oversight Project
Training in Early Abortion for

Comprehensive Healthcare (TEACH)

True North Research

Unitarian Universalist Association

United State of Women United We Dream UnRestrict Minnesota

We Testify

Women's March

Women's March Sussex - Delaware

Women's Medical Fund, Inc.

Women's Health Center of West Virginia

Yellowhammer Fund

Medical, Public Health Professionals, Practices, and Health Organizations:

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