

SUPREME COURT, STATE OF COLORADO 101 West Colfax Avenue, Suite 800 Denver, Colorado 80202	
Original Proceeding Pursuant to the Colorado Rules of Reapportionment Proceedings.	
IN RE REAPPORTIONMENT OF THE COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY	Supreme Court Case No. 2011SA282
NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado Inc. 1905 Sherman St. Ste. 800 Denver, CO 80203 303-394-1973	
NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado's Statement Supporting Reapportionment Commission's Final House and Senate Plans	

Pursuant to the Court's order, NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado, Inc. hereby submits a statement in support of the Commission's proposed final plans.

STATEMENT

NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado is a 501(c)(4) non-profit organization with its office in Denver, Colorado and more than 10,000 statewide supporters. NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado works to protect and promote access to the full spectrum of reproductive health care services Colorado women need throughout their lifetimes. This important work is accomplished through engaging in grassroots organizing,

public policy, and voter education as it pertains to candidates' positions on reproductive health care and reproductive rights, as well as turning out pro-choice voters on Election Day.

NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado writes in support of the Colorado reapportionment plans currently under consideration by the State Supreme Court.

We support these revised plans primarily because of the reduced number of divided city and county boundaries, as required by the Court when it remanded the previous versions to the Legislative Reapportionment Commission. Local governments have tremendous influence over ordinances and policies that affect accessibility and affordability of women's health care services are enacted in Colorado. Examples include:

- School boards' decisions about comprehensive health education policies and the extent to which sexual and reproductive health education will be taught;
- School boards' decisions about whether to have school-based health centers on-site, and if so, the scope of health care services and counseling that will be offered, including screening for sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy testing, contraceptive counseling, or contraceptive distribution;

- Cities' and/or counties' decisions about whether to allocate any local revenues to health care facilities to provide preventive health care services to low-income and other underserved populations in their communities;
- Cities' and/or counties' decisions about policies for provision of health care services in facilities administered by the municipality – county health departments, hospitals, community clinics, etc.;
- Cities' and/or counties' decisions about where to private clinics, pharmacies, safety-net clinics, and other locations for women and their families to receive the health care services they need are located.

Additionally, keeping counties whole in rural communities is important because county health departments often act as primary providers of health care access. This is true because of the challenges rural communities face in attracting and retaining primary care providers as well as specialists in a wide range of medical fields.

Reapportionment plans that preserve city and county boundaries wherever possible increase the ability of state legislative elected officials to represent their constituents' health care access issues at the Capitol. This affects our members' ability to access the health care services they need. The current plans under

consideration by this Court clearly accomplish this goal. This overlap gives citizens – through local governments, state representatives, and state senators – the best possible representation.

In summary, NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado, Inc. supports the reapportionment plans currently under consideration and urges the Court to uphold those plans. As currently proposed, these plans minimize the splitting of local government boundaries ensuring that citizens will be represented by overlapping, consistent local and state government entities and thereby receive the best possible access to health care services.



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