

John B. Anderson

Dear Friend:

A reactionary coalition of right wing groups has mounted a nationwide fundraising and organizing campaign designed to destroy the political careers of some of the nation's most progressive leaders.

I'm writing to ask your help in doing something about the growing threat which these zealots pose -- a threat so great that unless you and I act immediately it may be too late.

They've drawn up a "hit list", labeled it the "Deadly Dozen" and are working and raising money to defeat those who have defended a woman's right to choose. Senators like George McGovern, John Culver, Bob Packwood, Birch Bayh, Patrick Leahy. Representatives like Joe Fisher, Morris Udall, Robert Drinan, Robert Edgar, and Harold Hollenbeck.

Unless you and I act immediately, the right wing extremists are likely to succeed. And, if they are successful in their political attack they will send a message to all of Congress. It will be loud and clear:

"Vote for every piece of anti-abortion legislation including a constitutional amendment to reverse the Supreme Court's decision on abortion. Better to go along with us than to suffer the political punishment we can deliver."

And, I can tell you personally from my years in the United States House of Representatives that the capacity of this vociferous anti-choice minority to threaten and intimidate is enormous.

If you are growing increasingly alarmed -- and you should be -- about the rising political power of the so-called "right to life" movement . . . about the burning and vandalism of abortion clinics . . . about the harassment of

National Abortion Rights Action League
825 15th Street NW
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patients . . . about the growing threat of a Constitutional Convention . . . about the rising tide of political intimidation, then I urge you to act immediately because now there is something you can do about it!

Because now . . .

. . . there is a strong citizen force whose efforts are dedicated exclusively to protecting the right of a woman to choose an abortion;

. . . there is an organization with more than 69,000 members organized into an effective network designed to counter the reactionary, right-wing axis of anti-choice forces which threatens individual freedom;

. . . there is a strong organization speaking out for the 80 percent (!) of all Americans who believe that it is the personal right of every woman to choose whether or not to undergo an abortion.

There is the National Abortion Rights Action League.

Frankly, I've had enough of the anti-choice zealots and their ability to put fear into Congress, state legislatures and city councils. I'm fed up with having one of the most personal of all freedoms put in jeopardy by a small, but rich and vociferous group. I'm fed up with the zealots' attempt to impose compulsory pregnancy on America . . . with their attempt to destroy elected representatives who have the courage to speak up for individual liberty.

That's why I've decided to help the National Abortion Rights Action League in every way I can. That's why I'm writing to enlist your help also. You and I had better stand up to these bullies.

We must stop these extremists . . . before it's too late.

By joining with thousands of other concerned citizens in NARAL, here's how we can defend a precious freedom:

- * Recruit pro-choice citizens to our cause. The anti-choice forces have made enormous political gains because, up until now, pro-choice people have

been less well-organized, less active and more "reasonable". In short, the majority has been intimidated by the well-organized and richly financed minority. It is increasingly apparent that this powerful coalition backed by the fervor and finances of the extreme right wing intends to carry their "purge" beyond the issue of abortion. Included on their list is progressive Senator Frank Church whose record clearly demonstrates he is not pro-choice.

Well, we're going to change all that. We're going to organize and fight. Here's the next step.

- * Build a politically astute pro-choice constituency through education. While we have no structure to rival the church-financed anti-abortion forces, we are building an effective network capable of organizing to defend the right to choose. Through NARAL's exciting IMPACT 80 Campaign, we are mounting a campaign designed to alert and inform citizens about the frightening growth of the anti-abortion movement.

We know from experience that the individual concerned citizen can make a difference. We'll train our activists with the skills necessary to organize and campaign for the issue of abortion rights. Armed with professional techniques just like those used in the most effective political campaigns they'll build phone banks, hold home meetings, conduct postcard, button and bumper sticker campaigns and organize to get out the vote.

For, only by organizing the majority and urging it to speak out can we destroy the myth that these extremists represent the mainstream of America in their drive to make abortion illegal.

- * Demonstrate to Members of Congress and Congressional Candidates that they cannot ignore the majority. Public opinion polls clearly show that 80% of all Americans believe it is the personal right of every woman to choose whether or not to have an abortion. We'll see to it that this voting majority knows exactly where each candidate in the 1980 election stands. Regardless of the amount of pressure, intimidation and money brought to bear in the 1980 campaign by the extremists, a simple fact stands out that must be impressed on the candidates -- the voice of the majority can be expressed in the voting booth. And the majority is pro-choice.

We will defend those leaders who have been marked for political execution by the reactionaries. We will mobilize the electorate in highly visible ways to send the unmistakable message of the majority to Congress: "I'm pro-choice. And I vote!"

And IMPACT 80 will go beyond the elections. Thanks to this program, NARAL's state organizations will be in a position to tackle state issues that have up to now been dominated by the anti-abortion minority.

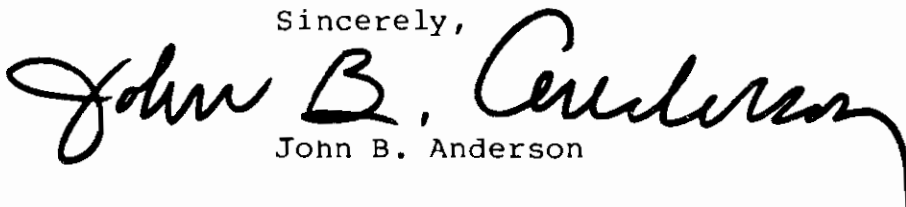
Backed by the activist network of local units, state organizations will be able to coordinate programs aimed at restoring state abortion funding for low-income women . . . eliminating discriminatory local ordinances . . . drawing attention to clinic-related violence on the part of anti-choice fanatics . . . and educating the community in all aspects of the right to choose an abortion.

IMPACT 80 is a large and significant national grassroots campaign. Yet, this critical program cannot --and will not -- achieve its goal without an all-important element: the moral and financial support of people like you. As Americans, we have always rallied to defend individual liberty against those who impose their will on others.

But, as you well know, defending liberty is costly. Despite the dedication of thousands of NARAL volunteers, large sums of money will be required to mount this absolutely essential effort. That is why I am asking you to become a member of NARAL and lend your financial support to this crucial effort today.

When you write your check for membership, please be as generous as possible. I cannot stress too greatly the importance of your immediate and generous support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John B. Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping tail on the final "n".

John B. Anderson