

# Summary of Threshing Sessions on Abortion

In response to FCNL's request to all member Quaker Meetings in the USA  
Where does CHFM stand on the issue of abortion in the USA?

Guided by our Quaker faith, we respect each individual's process of inner discernment and their right to make decisions of conscience about their healthcare, including whether to become pregnant, avoid pregnancy, or terminate pregnancy. We observe that bans and restrictions on abortion have violated the principle of equality of all people, as efforts to enforce these have resulted in criminalization, incarceration, excessive surveillance, medical neglect resulting in death or severe harm, and violations of privacy, specifically of people who can become pregnant.

The Chapel Hill Friends Meeting agrees that universal access to affordable, effective, comprehensive health care, including age-appropriate sexual education, male and female contraception, and abortion, is an individual right and is necessary to allow all people to fulfill their potential. We oppose government efforts to ban or restrict abortion.

Peace and Justice will respond as Meeting is led.

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## Related issues

At the Threshing meetings held to discuss the issue, Friends also expressed concern on a number of other closely related issues, which we acknowledge below. We feel that they are important and are naming them here. We felt they deserved to have discernment and statements of their own but not to be inserted into this statement for clarity, brevity and to stay focused on FCNL's request.

Many Friends are equally concerned about gender-affirming care and trans rights.

The word compassion is not included. Our first response to another's distress is compassion. Do we wish to ask that compassion be used as a guide for the work of our Meeting, the work of FCNL and the work of Congress?

Funding of child rearing by State and Federal governments as a true, meaningful expression of loving children.