

Statement on Reproductive Justice from the ATSA Board of Directors
7/18/2022



Making Society Safer is ATSA's mission, specifically by preventing and treating sexual violence. A core component for achieving this mission is promoting bodily autonomy—that everyone has personal autonomy, self-ownership, and self-determination over their own body. In this, we see a direct link between sexual violence prevention and reproductive justice. As an organization that promotes intervention when we see something that goes against our mission, we make this statement.

Recent United States Supreme Court decisions have demonstrated an ideological shift that does not align with what we know about [violence prevention in general](#) or the [evidence-informed practices](#) that ATSA promotes regarding the prevention of sexual abuse.

Policies have consequences, both intentional and unintentional. Forced pregnancy is a violation of our human right to bodily autonomy and [recognized as a form of torture](#), as well as a tactic of [coercive control](#) within intimate partner violence. Considering that pregnancy can be a result of rape and incest, we must acknowledge that removing access to comprehensive healthcare will place victims in a position where they lose their right to bodily autonomy twice - through sexual assault and a lack of access to all available healthcare options. We are already seeing the consequences of these decisions, where survivors—[children as young as ten](#)—are being denied access to reproductive healthcare in their home states.

Removing an individual's right to bodily autonomy also increases the likelihood of greater childhood adversity, creating situations where parents who know they are not able to care for children are not given another option. We know that [high rates of Adverse Childhood Experiences \(ACES\) are correlated with negative biological, psychological, and social health outcomes](#). We also know that [there is a foster care to incarceration pipeline](#) and that [recidivism rates are highest for those who do not have a social safety net](#). Taken together, we see a direct link between reproductive justice, juvenile justice, and violence prevention. Supporting the right to choose pregnancy leads to children who are raised in homes and communities who have more opportunities to prevent sexual violence.

ATSA strives to utilize evidence-based solutions in all that we do; as such, we support comprehensive and holistic healthcare responses, as well as an individual's right to bodily autonomy, as these have been [demonstrated to prevent sexual violence and abuse](#). Above all, we will continue our commitment to making society safer by promoting evidence-based solutions, which includes promotion of bodily autonomy, in the prevention of sexual abuse.

The ATSA Board of Directors

Association for the Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Abuse

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