



Dear Iowans,

This is the most dangerous moment for women's health in Iowa in nearly 50 years. The Supreme Court is poised to overturn the *Roe v. Wade* judicial decision that has protected the right to an abortion since 1973.¹ State legislatures across the country, including here in Iowa,² have passed or are preparing abortion bans that will strip away that right at the state level. And in Congress, 18 Senators and 154 Representatives have already backed a bill to ban abortion nationwide even in cases of rape, incest, and when the life of the mother is at risk.³ It could even outlaw some forms of birth control and in vitro fertilization.

We are on the verge of reverting to a dangerous time in this country when women did not have the basic right to make decisions about their own bodies.

For decades, politicians in Washington have shown they don't really care about women and mothers unless there is political gain from it.

That's how we end up with a national shortage of baby formula that is tragically putting infants' lives at risk.⁴ And it explains why diseases affecting women such as endometriosis are all but ignored, even as endometriosis afflicts up to one in 10 women, often with crippling pain.⁵

Representation matters. We must have elected leaders in Washington that are not only dedicated to truly supporting women's health, but also understand firsthand the threats and dangers women can face.

I'm tired of career politicians like Sen. Chuck Grassley dictating policy that affects my health and that of my friends and family. That's why I've spent my entire career defending women's health-care access against efforts to take it away, as well as combatting the negligence of out-of-touch politicians who often have little to no regular interaction with women of childbearing age.

In the Iowa House, I fought back against attempts to ban abortion,⁶ and in Congress, I co-sponsored the Women's Health Protection Act to codify *Roe v. Wade* into federal law and guarantee abortion rights for every woman nationwide.⁷ I founded the House Endometriosis Caucus and doubled funding for endometriosis research to fight this debilitating condition.⁸

More recently, I've led the charge to call on the Biden Administration to use the Defense Production Act to get baby formula back onto store shelves and into the hands of Iowa parents that desperately need it,⁹ which the Administration finally did this month.¹⁰

Meanwhile, the only time Sen. Grassley has taken action, it's been to strip us of our rights.

Sen. Grassley arrived in Washington 47 years ago, just after the *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision was issued, and he's spent the five decades since trying to overturn it.

When he first ran for the Senate in 1980, Sen. Grassley did so on an anti-abortion platform that was extreme even for Republicans at the time, in which his supporters distributed literature comparing pro-choice Iowans to Hitler.¹¹ That anti-abortion stance helped earn him the Republican nomination.¹²

Then, in his very first Senate term, Sen. Grassley voted for a constitutional amendment to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and affirm that “a right to abortion is not secured by this Constitution.”¹³ While that measure failed, Sen. Grassley never stopped trying to ban abortion, and he’s spent decades voting to restrict choice and pack the court system with judges and justices who will roll back the protections afforded by *Roe*.

Sen. Grassley finally got his chance more than 30 years later when, as chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, he helped Mitch McConnell steal a seat on the Supreme Court. Sen. Grassley blocked Barack Obama’s nomination of Merrick Garland and instead shepherded through Justice Neil Gorsuch¹⁴ a year later. Justice Gorsuch will likely be the deciding vote to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and end the decades-old right to an abortion.¹⁵

It’s time to make Sen. Grassley pay by replacing him with the youngest woman ever to serve in the U.S. Senate.

You see, representation matters, and as one of the only women of child bearing age in the Senate, I won’t stop until we’ve passed the Women’s Health Protection Act to keep politicians out of our doctors’ offices and protect the right of women to make their own health care decisions.

I’ll continue to advocate for women and families, prioritizing efforts to fight challenges such as endometriosis and the baby formula shortage.

Unlike Sen. Grassley who’s lived in Washington for nearly 30 years, I’ve lived here in Iowa my whole life, and every day I talk to real people facing these challenges. I know the struggles folks face, and for me, it’s personal: I was prepared to champion endometriosis research because I suffer from the condition. I was aware of our baby formula crisis because my friends and family and the lowans I speak to with young kids let me know as soon as they started seeing empty store shelves.

You simply cannot advocate for these priorities and effectively serve Iowa families if you live in Washington and spend your time talking to politicians and lobbyists, like Sen. Grassley has done for the last several decades.

It’s time to elect someone who will work on behalf of Iowa women and families every single day to protect their rights, their health, and their wellbeing. I’ve been fighting for lowans my entire career, and I’m ready to take this fight to the U.S. Senate.

I hope you’ll be with me,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Abby Finkenauer', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Abby Finkenauer

CITATIONS

- 1 [“Supreme Court has voted to overturn abortion rights, draft opinion shows.” Politico, 5/2/22](#)
- 2 [“Iowa Legislature approves anti-abortion constitutional amendment. Legislature must pass it again before it goes to voters.” Des Moines Register, 5/19/21](#)
- 3 [S. 99 – Life at Conception Act, 117th Congress; H.R. 1011 – Life at Conception Act, 117th Congress](#)
- 4 [“‘Please Help’: A Nationwide Baby Formula Shortage Worsens.” New York Times, 5/8/22](#)
- 5 [Endometriosis, Yale Medicine](#)
- 6 [Abby Finkenauer Floor Speech, 5/1/18](#)
- 7 [H.R. 2975 – Women’s Health Protection Act, 116th Congress](#)
- 8 [“House doubles endometriosis research budget with Finkenauer’s help.” KCCI, 8/2/20](#)
- 9 [“White House: FDA’s Working On Baby Formula Shortage, But There’s No ‘National Stockpile.” Huffington post, 5/9/22](#)
- 10 [“Biden Invokes Defense Powers in a Bid to Ease Formula Shortage.” New York Times, 5/18/22](#)
- 11 [“Abortion issue enters primary.” Waterloo Courier, 6/2/80](#)
- 12 [“‘Plain ol’ Chuck Grassley is 2-1 GOP choice.” Associated Press, 6/5/80](#)
- 13 [“SENATE’S ROLL-CALL ON ABORTION PLAN.” New York Times, 6/29/83](#)
- 14 [“Grassley Statement On Supreme Court Nominee Neil Gorsuch.” Office of Sen. Chuck Grassley, 1/31/17](#)
- 15 [“Supreme Court has voted to overturn abortion rights, draft opinion shows.” Politico, 5/2/22](#)