

Reproaction

Reproaction Education Fund
P.O. Box 7435
Arlington, VA 22207

12 January 2021

Members of the DC Council
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Councilmember,

I am writing to inform you that the anti-abortion organization March for Life, along with its partners, allies, and various anti-abortion groups and individuals from around the country, are planning to convene in and around our city again this year for their annual march. Despite caps on large outdoor gatherings in the city remaining at 25 people total, they intend to congregate in the thousands or more, flouting the deadly pandemic that as of our writing has caused well over 500,000 positive cases in the District, with the highest single-day case count recorded last weekend.

The Renaissance Hotel on 9th Street NW is hosting a large number of attendees to the march, and while they've cancelled their indoor "expo," the outdoor march and other events still appear to be moving forward, as planned. Neighbors, hotel staff at the Renaissance and elsewhere, service industry workers, and anyone who would come in contact with the marchers and march route throughout the city are put at risk by this event. I am asking you to issue a statement opposing this dangerous event, compelling the organizers to cancel.

There is nothing 'pro-life' about traveling from around the country to infect D.C. residents with a deadly virus, especially against the backdrop of a white supremacist coup attempt incited by the president (the same president who spoke at a previous March for 'Life') that has left the Washington region fearful for our safety from racist violence and deadly disease brought into our communities.

Reproaction is a grassroots reproductive justice organization with organizers and staff based here in the District. We have tracked the anti-abortion movement's super-spreader events, efforts to flout and overturn public health restrictions to curb the spread, white supremacist leanings, and other dangerous activities. We know this group won't follow guidelines to keep Washingtonians safe. I am asking you to use your power and platform in the city to keep your constituents safe.

Cordially,

Shireen Rose Shakouri
Deputy Director, Reproaction
Based in Washington, D.C.