

## **Logical Partners and Odd Bedfellows**

### *Odd Bedfellows:*

Knoxville City Councilwoman Lynne Fugate is a potential odd bedfellow. Councilwoman Fugate has never supported a resolution directed to the state legislature. Lynne Fugate has been reported that she disagrees with the wording and restrictions of the law, and she was quoted stating, "It's a bold step for me." (Wadhvani, 2022, para. 2) regarding her support for a change. Ms. Fugate has served on numerous boards and has been active within her community for 30+ years. Ms. Fugate's role within the campaign would include the publicity of having her as a supporter to gain support within communities, one of the speakers to inform the public and legislation about the Bill/Law, and assistance with drafting the legislation.

Another potential odd bedfellow is Sen. Paul Rose, R-Covington, for the campaign. Senator Rose voted for the law but has reported he needs more explanation regarding the limits of the current law and is open-minded to a resolution. Having Sen. Rose's assistance with drafting the legislation would be beneficial to help limit or prevent any loopholes and ensure the bill/law is worded for the correct interpretation.

### *Logical Partners:*

Planned Parenthood of Tennessee and North Mississippi (PPTN) is a possible logical partner. Even though they can no longer provide abortions in their clinics, they now offer assistance with helping to provide the closest provider for women. Additionally, they assist with the cost and travel if needed. Planned Parenthood of Tennessee and North Mississippi have multiple resources that could benefit the campaign, including financial support, publicity, and community

involvement from their numerous locations within Tennessee. Additionally, since PPTN clinics previously performed abortions and assisted women with abortions, they could assist with organizing testimonies, especially from women who were involved before the current law became active and after the law became active.

Knoxville's Mayor Indya Kincannon was quoted stating, "I trust women to make their own decisions" by the Knoxville Focus. Mayor Kincannon has openly discussed her support for revising the abortion law (Steely, 2022). Being a Mayor of Knoxville and supporting the community in various ways, Mayor Kincannon could help the campaign by gaining additional supporters and gaining additional resources. Also, Mayor Kincannon could help with drafting the bill/law or know of other resources that could help with the drafting.

Nashville Mayor Cooper and Council Members Burkley Allen, Delishia Porterfield, and Erin Evans are logical partners. According to the Metropolitan Government of Nashville & Davidson County (2022), the mayor and council members requested Metro's Employee Benefit Board to reimburse medical procedures unavailable in Tennessee for metro employees. During a council meeting, council members unanimously supported health care coverage for out-of-state procedures, including for women seeking an abortion out of state (West, 2022). Gaining the support of the mayor and council members will bring additional awareness to the campaign and gain potential supporters and investors. Also, they would bring another supporting factor of reducing the cost of covering the traveling expenses for women seeking abortions from other areas.

Healthy and Free Tennessee (n.d.) is an organization that advocates for a women's right to choose abortion services. The organization is partnered with an array of local, state, national, and

international partners. Healthy and Free Tennessee could help assist with organizing testimonies for the campaign since the organization has multiple partners that can help with financial support, publicity, spreading awareness, and providing support at local and state levels.

## References

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[https://www.healthyandfreetn.org/partners\\_list](https://www.healthyandfreetn.org/partners_list)
- Metropolitan Government of Nashville & Davidson County. (2022, June 30). *Mayor Cooper calls for new measures to support women's health care for Metro employees*. <https://www.nashville.gov/departments/mayor/news/mayor-cooper-calls-new-measures-support-womens-health-care-metro-employees>
- Planned Parenthood of Tennessee and North Mississippi. (n.d.). *Abortion restrictions in TN & MS*. <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-tennessee-and-north-mississippi/abortion-restrictions-tn-ms>
- Steely, M. (2022, September 22). *City to pass letter to state for abortion rights*. The Knoxville Focus. <https://www.knoxfocus.com/archives/this-weeks-focus/city-to-pass-letter-to-state-for-abortion-rights/>
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- West, E. (2022, July 20). *Metro Council supports call for employee health coverage to include abortion access*. News Channel 5 Nashville (WTVF). <https://www.newschannel5.com/news/metro-council-supports-call-for-employee-health-coverage-to-include-abortion-access>