



## AKRON DSA - COVID-19 ABORTION STATEMENT

March 24, 2020

The Akron DSA applauds many of the measures Ohio Governor Mike DeWine has taken to protect the people of Ohio during the unprecedented times of COVID-19. Nevertheless, we must remain vigilant to prevent partisan moves and infringements on human rights. We were concerned when Governor DeWine stated “the sanctity of life...is the most important obligation that I have” during his [3/20/2020 press conference](#). This sounded like a dog whistle for the anti-choice movement, which has gained significant power [under current Ohio Republican leadership](#). These concerns were substantiated when we learned that [Ohio Attorney General David Yost ordered two Ohio abortion clinics to halt procedures](#) on the same day. It has been [widely reported](#) that [all abortion clinics in the state](#) are subject to Dr. Amy Acton’s order to close as nonessential healthcare. However, according to [a joint statement](#) by leading professional reproductive healthcare organizations, “Abortion is an essential component of comprehensive health care. It is also a time-sensitive service for which a delay of several weeks, or in some cases days, may increase the risks or potentially make it completely inaccessible. The consequences of being unable to obtain an abortion profoundly impact a person’s life, health, and well-being.”

The Akron DSA believes reproductive freedom is essential to the freedom of all people, and that all people should have complete body autonomy, regardless of outside circumstances. By declaring abortion services are elective and non-essential, the attorney general is using an emergency to overreach and sideline people's medical freedoms. We believe only doctors and patients are qualified to make healthcare choices, not the State Attorney general or the Republican state government.

The Akron DSA acknowledges that we are at the beginning of a long journey to control COVID-19. We are not willing to give up our bodily autonomy indefinitely. The people of Ohio need timely and safe access to abortion now and always. We will do our part to stop the spread of COVID-19, but not at the expense of our civil rights and personal health. We demand the government of the state of Ohio cease using the guise of public health policy to harass our healthcare providers and create further uncertainty during this difficult time.

Akron Democratic Socialists of America



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