



Kirsten Engel, Southern Arizona Leaders Host Reproductive Rights Roundtable

Engel, Mayor Regina Romero, Minority Whip Nancy Gutierrez, Pima County Supervisor Adelita Grijalva, and Dr. Amalia Luxardo discuss the importance of the fight for abortion access and freedom to choose

TUCSON — Yesterday, Kirsten Engel — the only Democratic candidate for Arizona’s 6th Congressional district and former Arizona state legislator — moderated a panel discussion on reproductive rights. Joined by Mayor of Tucson Regina Romero, Arizona House of Representative Minority Whip Nancy Gutierrez, Pima County Supervisor Adelita Grijalva, and CEO of the Women’s Foundation of Southern Arizona Dr. Amalia Luxardo, Engel and state and local leaders emphasized the importance of championing abortion access and electing pro-choice, Democratic leaders.

Following news that the Arizona Supreme Court will [decide whether to reinstall an extreme, pre-statehood law that effectively bans all abortion and jails doctors](#), Engel and local Arizona leaders made clear the stakes of this election for reproductive freedom in Arizona — and across our nation.

“As a woman and mom of a teenage daughter, this issue is very personal to me. I am incredulous, sad and angry that my daughter has fewer rights than I had and even her grandmother had,” Engel said. **“And since being elected to Congress, Juan Ciscomani has time after time demonstrated the extremist that he is by voting with the far right against abortion access. In Congress, I will protect our fundamental freedom to make their own health care decisions. I will fight for access to abortion. The 2024 election is critical. Reproductive freedom is on the ballot.”**

“Without our right to bodily autonomy, what right do we have? What we do with our bodies should be no one’s business but our own,” Romero said. **“When the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* decision was leaked, our city sprung into action to protect access to abortion services and reproductive health care. I am proud of the work we have accomplished in the City of Tucson to**



defend each of our rights to make decisions about our own bodies, in the face of right-wing attacks on abortion.”

“Like so many of us, the *Dobbs* decision fundamentally changed me. It’s one of the main reasons I decided to run for office last year,” Gutierrez said. “In the state legislature, I will always fight for our freedoms because our right to choose, LGBTQ+ rights and our democracy are all interconnected. I was proud to join this incredible group of women for this important discussion and will always hold Republican anti-abortion extremists in the state house accountable.”

“The right for a pregnant person to make a decision over her own body is non-negotiable,” Grijalva said. “In fact, it’s supported by almost 90 percent of Arizonans across the political spectrum. I am a mom of a daughter, and it scares me to know she has fewer rights than I did for most of my life. We can’t stand by as anti-abortion extremists seek to control our bodies. We must act now to support our future generations’ ability to thrive.”

Engel will face highly vulnerable Republican Congressman Juan Ciscomani in a rematch race. Last cycle, Engel came within 1.5 points of beating Ciscomani in one of the closest congressional contests in the nation. Since taking office, Ciscomani has [repeatedly affirmed just how extreme he is](#) – voting to [criminalize doctors for performing essential health care](#), [removing access to medication abortions](#), and [removing women from their private health insurance](#). His support to restrict access to medication abortion is propelling the government to a shutdown.

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