



# THE RED PHOENIX

NEWSPAPER OF THE AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR

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**ROE V. WADE: PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES  
FROM ORGANIZED REACTION!**

## BEYOND ROE V. WADE: TOWARD A WORKING CLASS PROTECTION OF ABORTION RIGHTS (1/2)



Protesters March in Chicago, May 7th, 2022

By Delilah Ruth May 9th, 2022

Conditions of freedom, health, and happiness have been circling the drain in the United States for a number of years, most recently exacerbated by the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. With the news of the Supreme Court's intention to overturn Roe vs Wade in the coming months, Americans find the last semblances of our democracy to be entirely in the sewer.

It's been no secret that for the majority of the years after Roe was decided in 1973, influential groups of mostly religious right-wing zealots have yearned for this moment - a devastating curtain reveal of the inescapable misogyny of American Christian capitalism. This revelation comes as no surprise to longtime abortion advocates, who for just as many decades have attempted to sound the alarm on the increasing chips in the armor of this decision, this precarious determination that women (and others who give birth) might, in fact, have rights and dignity. Roe was always a ticking time bomb, and working class women have had to navigate financial and other limitations in accessing abortion care throughout the entirety of its legalization.

Out of an unelected panel of nine people appointed to their positions for the rest of their natural lives, five of them (at least two of them men that have been credibly accused of sexual violence) get to decide the fate of women's reproductive self-determination and dignity. The limitations of electoralism have been laid completely to bare.

As one of those advocates and a former abortion care worker, I've watched as grassroots organizers have done everything they've been told is right to

combat the rising power of the so-called "pro-life" movement - street protests, phonebanks, clinic escorting, letter-writing, and of course, voting. The Democratic party has held Roe hostage nearly since its release, many times with outright promises to codify the rights enshrined in the decision, but never delivering on those commitments. The threat that failing to "vote blue" would lead to the eventual downfall of abortion rights has always been looming in speeches, in campaign ads, and most importantly, in fundraising emails. After all, without the threat of imminent suffering brought on by outright Republican cruelty, how would Democrats garner any support at all? And yet, with a Democratic president and Congressional majority, Roe awaits its execution. Out of an unelected panel of nine people appointed to their positions for the rest of their natural lives, five of them (at least two of them men that have been credibly accused of sexual violence) get to decide the fate of women's reproductive self-determination and dignity. The limitations of electoralism have been laid completely to bare.

The sorrow, fear, and dismay felt by this scorned half of the population at the news that they are soon to have fewer rights than corpses is palpable. This reaction is entirely justified, as the impacts of a reversal of Roe can only be described as catastrophic. The first point to note is that abortion will effectively become illegal in 13 states immediately - Arkansas, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming, soon to be followed by another handful of states which are expected to quickly enact bans.

The licentious danger inherent to these bans is clear to anyone who is familiar with the history of

reproductive rights or who has even a passing knowledge of maternal and child health in the United States. Study after study has demonstrated that areas with abortion bans have higher maternal mortality rates, with one University of Colorado study indicating the increase would be in the double-digits before even accounting for unsafe abortion attempts. This same study also indicated that the increase in maternal deaths would disproportionately affect Black women, as they would see a 33% increase in pregnancy-related deaths despite already accounting for a disproportionate amount of

maternal mortality. Maternal outcomes are already abysmal in the United States, with the current rate of pregnancy-related death at 23.8 per 100,000. By contrast, socialist Cuba, which provides free abortion countrywide, has a maternal mortality rate of just 12.8 per 100,000. The burden of abortion restrictions are not even limited to birthing parents - they affect infants as well. Abortion restrictions may even cause infant deaths to rise, a statistic of course ignored by those who enact these bans in the name of protecting babies. In all cases, needless suffering becomes the only outcome of this extremely unpopular abuse of power.

To add to what can only be considered this, borrowing Justice Alito's language in the draft decision, "egregiously wrong" decision, the Supreme Court's anticipated destruction of rights does not even come with a hint of increased commitment to motherhood, the safety and welfare of women, and certainly not the safety and welfare of children. As a nation, we are still debating whether or not it's worth protecting children from a now vaccine-preventable novel disease via both those very vaccines or simple usage of face masks. Children die by unaddressed gun violence in schools on a regular basis. Black children are routinely lost to police brutality and violence. Those who are eager to see the demise of abortion access, these ostensibly politically neutral Justices included, are not as eager to see the implementation of universal healthcare, prenatal and maternity care, childcare, paid maternity leave, increased food security programs, or any other protection and support for those they are forcing into parenthood. Once again the strain of the supposed moral superiority of the ruling class falls on the backs of workers. (Continued)

## BEYOND ROE V. WADE: TOWARD A WORKING CLASS PROTECTION OF ABORTION RIGHTS (2/2)

(Continued) Abortion restrictions must be understood through the lens of class and class warfare. One million lives have been sacrificed to COVID-19 over the past two years primarily to secure the continued profit of the capitalist class. Complaints of “no one wants to work anymore” echo amongst the headlines and social media – highlighting widespread staffing shortages that remain more irksome to the capitalist class than the complete collapse of the US’s already pitiful public health infrastructure. Low birth rates have bothered economists for years, no doubt their effect becoming even more alarming to those who subsist themselves on exploited workers with the loss of so many people in the county. The economic motive to restricting abortion is clear, and it benefits the capitalist class to continue to burden working class women with carrying any and every fertilized egg that implants itself into their uteruses. Coupled with recent attacks on LGBTQ rights, homophobic and transphobic attacks on public schools meant to garner support for privatizing education, voter suppression and poverty wages, the intent behind these efforts to restrict reproductive self determination is very transparently motivated by capitalism’s reliance on women’s unpaid

labor and the ability to keep workers compliant through a constant struggle for survival.

This reliance is increasingly being revealed as being not just about the unpaid reproductive labor primarily women do in the “private” sphere – the absolute emphasis on the capitalist bargain that is the “nuclear family” – but also about the commodification of children themselves. Engels referred to the “propagation of children” as being “the first division of labor” and “the first class opposition that appears in history”. Whereas for decades, the right wing in the United States has wailed incessantly about the destruction of the nuclear family, a private means of production for the propagation of children, the leaked Supreme Court decision belies a new intention – industrialization of childbearing and adoption. In the decision, Justice Alito refers to a death of the “domestic supply of infants”, something also echoed in the arguments made by Justice Amy Coney Barret in the case leading to this reversal, *Dobbs vs. Jackson*. The moral argument against abortion, that such an action is “murder”, instead becomes a question of supply and demand of infants for wealthy families looking to adopt, and moreso, those looking to profit by engaging in the private adoption industry.

For decades, abortion rights activists and those who conducted abortion-related work have known that the struggle to control reproduction would not end at abortion restrictions, and certainly not at priggish arguments over “state’s rights”. Like in so many things, the people (primarily women) who did and do this work, were told they were overreacting. Now, before the decision on the reversal of *Roe* is final, multiple right wing lawmakers are outwardly considering bans on popular forms of contraceptive, including emergency hormonal contraceptive pills or “Plan B” as well as one of the most widely used and effective long-acting reversible contraceptive methods, intrauterine devices (IUDs). Others are hoping to expand the carceral apparatus by jailing women who seek abortion and healthcare workers who provide them for homicide. No doubt these types of legislative actions will be used to prosecute and condemn women for miscarriages as well, which has already occurred in some states, essentially criminalizing women’s bodies for existing.

This is not an exhaustive description of all of the problems, injustices, misogyny and hypocrisy unleashed within this leaked decision. This rollback, if it should occur and it is intensely likely it will, has implications that extend far beyond just any one

woman or person’s ability to decide for themselves whether or not they will carry a pregnancy and give birth. So what is the solution for workers in the face of yet another attack on our ability to make choices for ourselves, our health, our lives, and our worth? Many abortion rights advocates have already begun the groundwork of developing funds to assist women in states in which abortion will soon be criminalized. Organizations like Women on Waves/ Women on Web have existed for years to provide care to women in countries that have restrictions on abortion, and newer options such as Plan C have popped up to provide mail-order abortion pills as well. This type of response will provide some semblance of relief in the short-term, but is ultimately only a harm-reduction method.

There are lessons that can be learned from global movements for abortion rights – particularly the most recent successful campaigns to decriminalize abortion in Latin America. This fight, like theirs, will take unrelenting commitment. All prior liberal strategies of treating abortion as a shameful necessity should be eradicated, and replaced only with enthusiasm for the multitudes of ways in which women and other birthing people can and should be able to control their fertility. Activists must speak frankly about abortion rights in all avenues of discussion – at the dinner table, on social media, with family, friends and especially coworkers. Too long have liberals forced abortion rights advocates into a defensive position. This movement must be led offensively, and in conjunction with other movements for democracy – as part of the movement for LGBTQ liberation, liberation from white supremacy, and liberation from the exploitation of wage labor. It is essential to build consciousness among women workers in this moment that their struggle is one that can only be aided by the construction and defense of workers power in all avenues. By building labor power, we build the power to grind these undemocratic institutions to a halt.

Alito’s leaked decision posits that the right to an abortion cannot be explicitly found anywhere within the US Constitution. This is true, as abortion is not explicitly written anywhere in a document that at its inception also denied women the right to vote and allowed the enslavement of Black people. If what Alito and the other Justices who are his allies in this corrupt endeavor want is a Constitution that explicitly enumerates the right to an abortion, it is up to us as workers to build the power necessary to force the creation of such a document – a true workers democracy that respects and enshrines the rights of all people to control their own bodies, fertility, and future.



# AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR ON ROE V. WADE: DEFEND OUR COMMUNITIES FROM ORGANIZED REACTION!



## DEFEND OUR COMMUNITIES FROM ORGANIZED REACTION



### From the Members and Secretariat of the American Party of Labor, May 4th, 2022

Leaked documents have revealed what women's rights activists have long feared from the Trump-stacked, undemocratic Supreme Court: a draft opinion to repeal Roe V Wade, the 1973 ruling that protected women's right to abortion. It comes after a prolonged national effort by the Republican party to challenge Roe V Wade and limit the rights of women living in "red states."

It is important to consider the context in which this attack occurs. This is not yet another resuscitation of the tired, religiously-motivated arguments over when life begins. This is a direct reaction to the leading position women took in the largest street demonstrations in the history of the country in 2017's Women's March, and during the revolutionary George Floyd movement of 2020. Faced with a growing movement that openly confronts the intersections of American capitalism, from white supremacy and police brutality, to wage gaps, to unpunished abuse, and cultures of harassment, the right wing has attacked education, the LGBTQ+ community, our right to protest, and a woman's right to choose. These attacks fall disproportionately on the working class, who, in the case of abortion, do not have money to travel long distances to get the safe treatment they need in a state that has protected abortion rights.

We expect the right wing to make these attacks.

What we can no longer accept is the failure of reform in addressing these issues. Facing these threats, the revolutionary fervor of the George Floyd and Women's March moments has been squandered on electoral campaigns that continue to fail the people of the United States. This latest attack makes it clear for all: the solution to the crises of capitalism, and the continued assault on women's rights, will never be found in reform or within the Democratic Party. Women came out and supported Biden's electoral campaign in record numbers, but still he has failed to legislate or even advocate in defense of abortion. This cannot stand.

The issues that dominate our life, that indeed dictate the trajectory of the lives we lead, cannot teeter on the lifespan of a supreme court judge, or the whim of two party political shifts. As working class women and workers, we can no longer funnel our resistance into random street marches. We need guided, thoughtful action that doesn't walk alongside the system, but actively seeks to halt it from working.

The George Floyd and Women's March movements transformed American politics and showed the power of the people. But every time that power grows, the ruling class will rise to undermine it, from the health clinic to the schoolyard. This weekend, the American Party of Labor calls on all people who support true democracy and working class rights, to take to the streets and demand that Roe V Wade be upheld. We know the right will continue to attack the rights of working people, and it falls on us to no longer settle for reformist diversions, and fight for a world in which every person has total control of their destiny.



**PEACE,  
EQUALITY,  
SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY**

# THE HISTORY AND MEANING OF MAY DAY

By: John Palameda May 1st, 2022

Today is May Day.

For the rest of the world, May Day has a rich cultural and political history. Originating in ancient Roman spring festivals, contemporary May Day customs were developed in the 14th and 15th century in England. A May Day Queen is crowned, children dance around the Maypole, and May Day baskets are exchanged. But even these quaint practices often bled into working class rebellion, as May Day celebrations often turned raucous and anti-authority in nature, causing the Puritan government under Oliver Cromwell to ban the holiday under the auspices of "pagan influence." The phrase "to go a-maying", taken from a Robert Herrick carpe diem poem published in 1648, means to be mischievous, to run outside social convention, to reject religious orthodoxy, to entertain ones fancies, and in the case of the poem, throw away the restrictions of a heavily gendered society.

Yet, while May Day in its traditional form does have political contexts and overtones, as all things do, for workers in the United States May Day is something different. Traditional May Day celebrations have always been less prevalent in the States, first because of the staunch protestant and puritan bedrock of the early American colonists, and later because the day become quite explicitly political. For, contrary to the common belief that May Day originated in tanks rolling down Red Square, it was in the United States that May Day become International Workers' Day. In an 1885 convention in Chicago, Illinois, an alliance of labor groups headed by the AFL declared that the work day should be no longer than 8 hours, effective May

1st, 1886. On that May 1st, 1886, a massive general strike took place that led to the Haymarket Riot in Chicago on May 4th, where police and workers clashed over the right of workers to have "8 hours for what we will."

Seeing the political power that May Day was quickly gaining given its synthesis of cultural spring festivities and openly anti-capitalist organizing, and after the 1894 May Day Riot in Cleveland, Grover Cleveland and moderate union bosses set the federally recognized Labor Day to its current date, far away from the a-maying rioters, to the first Monday in September.

Thus, for leftists and working class activists in the U.S., May Day is not merely a celebration of labor, the spring, and the red flag. For us, it is a declaration of political independence as workers, from moderate, compromising union leadership, from the political establishment and its holiday in September, and from reformist mentalities that tell us to wait for livable wages, decent housing, education, gender and racial equality, and fulfilling work. On May Day, we shed the Reaganite mythos of the corrupt, criminal, and impotent union, and stand proudly beside our union brothers and sisters. We unearth the history of American Communists, civil rights leaders, suffragettes, radical musicians, poets, painters, and writers, who have been thrown in the dustbin of history by triumphalist capitalist historical narratives, or gentrified by the liberal establishment. We march together, across the wide spectrum of left ideologies, arm in arm, if only for the day.

On May Day, ultimately, we say openly that we are proud to be workers. We are not, as Steinbeck said,

"temporarily embarrassed capitalists." Nor must we be made to be middle class people, as reformist unions and democrats tell us, as if there is nothing to be proud of about being a worker, that a bartender can't run the country, that teachers can't decide policy. Today we are workers, who work long hours to support ourselves and our families, seek to better ourselves with education, strengthen working class bonds through workplace organization, fight against racist separatism and bigotry that divides us, and enjoy the off time we earn with our labor. And that is enough, more than enough, to demand better treatment, fair wages, and recognition as human beings with passions, interests, and unique perspectives that are worth more than \$7.25 an hour. On May Day, we don't settle for "better thans," we declare without reservation that bosses should no longer exploit the true-hearted intentions of the workers. Bosses should not make billions off the need and desire of workers to buy textbooks for their children, to seek out an education, to raise children, to have a home they are proud of, or to have a job they enjoy doing.

So when we say today is May Day, that has special meaning for workers in the U.S.. In the heart of the anti-worker and anti-communist beast, we declare ourselves to be proudly both, and recognize the gains we are making politically in our unions, local elections, and in our political parties. On May Day, we celebrate those gains, dream of a future free of wage slavery and all its effects, celebrate and march with our friends, union brothers, and comrades, and on May 2nd, we return to our historical and essential duty to bring those aims to every American worker.



May Day Marchers in Chicago

# WHAT IS THE FLORIDA ANTI-LGBTQIA+ BILL AND HOW CAN WE FIGHT BACK?

By: The APL LGBTQIA+ Commission April 2nd, 2022

In recent months, an unprecedented amount of anti-LGBTQIA+ legislation has appeared across the country in dozens of states. One of the newest attacks has arisen from Florida where HB 1557, more commonly known as the "Don't Say Gay" bill, was passed by the state's Republican-dominated legislature and just signed into law by Gov. Ron DeSantis. This reactionary measure targets LGBTQIA+ youth in Florida on multiple levels, leaving little room for supportive and affirming measures. The bill itself reads:

"Classroom instruction by school personnel or third parties on sexual orientation or gender identity may not occur in kindergarten through grade 3 or in a manner that is not age appropriate or developmentally appropriate for students in accordance with state standards."

This vague language undoubtedly will be used to attack the validity and existence of the LGBTQIA+ community within the state of Florida. By calling educational measures concerning LGBTQIA+ people "not age appropriate," the reactionaries in the Florida legislature have opened the door to full censorship of the discussion of LGBTQIA+ relationships and the problems faced by non-heteronormative individuals. The precedent for doing this has already been established in Texas, where Gov. Greg Abbott instituted rules that treat gender-affirming medical treatment for transgender minors as "child abuse" to be investigated by the state and Attorney General Ken Paxton attempted to squash Pride Week events in the Austin public schools, claiming they were "sex education."

The Florida law, in effect, treats children as the "property" of their parents, directly alienating them from their own rights to free access to education and information at the behest of their parents' demands. In response, during the first week of March, thousands of Florida public school students throughout the state organized walkouts and demonstrations protesting HB 1557, showing a clear will to take control of their education and a popular respect for the identities and safety of their LGBTQIA+ peers.



Hillsborough High School students protest a Republican-backed bill dubbed the "Don't Say Gay" that would prohibit classroom discussion of sexual orientation and gender identity, a measure Democrats denounced as being anti-LGBTQ, in Tampa, Florida, U.S., March 3, 2022. REUTERS/Octavio Jones

This bill is also designed to "out" students to their parents if they disclose to teachers or other school employees that they are themselves LGBTQIA+, with an exception to the measure if the school employee thinks that such a disclosure could lead to a dangerous living situation (which may not in itself be so obvious).

This legislation has been labeled as a "parental rights" bill, but this is extremely misleading. This bill gives a great deal of authority to parents who hold bigoted and religiously-based transphobic and homophobic opinions while leaving parents who support LGBTQIA+ rights powerless to deal with the onslaught of intolerant parents who threaten the educational integrity of the public school system. As a basic principle, children are not and should not be considered the property of their parents. Children fundamentally deserve intellectual autonomy as developing human beings. Any bill that is framed around "parental rights" that simultaneously contradicts the intellectual autonomy of children also directly contradicts the basic human rights of children themselves!

"I, as a trans Florida student, feel absolutely threatened with this 'Don't Say Gay' bill passed by Rep. Joe Harding. This bill could kill thousands of innocent teens who don't deserve this. They don't deserve to be treated like second-class creatures. They don't deserve to be treated like anything else other than an American. This bill and Rep. Harding are a danger to the innocent youth of Florida. They seek to silence LGBTQ+ youth with their bigotry and raw hatred.... This country has proven itself many times to fail its people."  
- Sia N

It's important to remember that anti-LGBTQ+ politicians have gained and kept power with the financial backing of

opportunistic and bigoted corporate elites. The Walt Disney Co. itself has caught backlash for its generous campaign contributions to the bill's backers. In the 2020 election cycle, it gave money to every sponsor and co-sponsor of the bill, according to the Orlando Sentinel. Disney workers walked off their jobsites in protest as a result of the failure of the company to actively oppose this measure from its inception. After a concerted campaign of protest by the LGBTQIA+ community and numerous Disney employees and the walk outs, Disney's CEO spoke out against the bill although by then it was too late for his new-found opposition to have any real effect.

The American Party of Labor and its LGBTQIA+ Commission will continue to monitor this ongoing situation as the legislative attacks on our nation's queer community by right-wing politicians continue to mount and we will do everything in our power to oppose them wherever they may arise. We, as working-class advocates, will make our voices heard in opposition to this tide of anti-LGBTQ+ chauvinism. And we urge local school boards and the Florida Department of Education to find the political courage to refuse to implement the provisions of this bigoted legislation. (A good example was the school boards in Florida that refused to uphold Gov. DeSantis' anti-masking rules.) We must protect the human rights and dignity of Florida's LGBTQIA+ students and the educational integrity of its public schools, including their ability to openly and honestly discuss LGBTQIA+ topics.

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All Power  
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# TEXAS GOVERNMENT TARGETS TRANS COMMUNITY, FACES ORGANIZED PUSH BACK



Austin ISD celebrates Pride Out, March 26th, 2022, Austin, Texas

## From the LGBTQIA+ Commission of the American Party of Labor.

Over the course of the last few years the state of Texas has been experiencing a state crisis. This crisis has been intensified in recent years due to the COVID-19 pandemic; the pandemic which Texas was fully ill-prepared to handle. Out of this intensifying crisis, the reactionary bourgeois class within the state of Texas has been looking for ways to secure its dominance and continue its existence. One of the most repressive ways these reactionaries have gone about trying to garner support from the working and oppressed peoples in this time of crisis has been to ignite fervor over old, unfounded prejudice and hatred, especially against the transgender and gender-nonconforming community.

This purge against these communities has once again come to the forefront in Texas. On Feb. 22, Texas Governor Greg Abbott, released a statement which instructed the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services to prosecute gender-affirming healthcare of transgender youth as child abuse. Furthermore, medical experts and schoolteachers are required to report any "signs" that transgender children are receiving necessary treatment. This decree not only attacks healthcare, but also punishes families and teachers harboring transgender and gender nonconforming children and students. The statement released by Governor Abbott explicitly denies a scientific understanding of gender and its fluid nature, and by extent tries to will the existence of transgender and gender-nonconforming youth away.

In a previous statement issued by this commission, the American Party of Labor presented the scientific understanding of gender, where it is asserted that "gender identity is understood as one's internal alignment or relationship with gender as a cultural concept." This definition coincides with other scientific data presented by the American Psychological Association (APA) that states "transgender persons have been documented in many

indigenous, Western, and Eastern cultures and societies from antiquity until the present day." By trying to assert his own ungrounded understanding of gender into Texas law, Governor Abbott fully ignores all scientific data concerning the validity of the transgender and gender-nonconforming community, especially the youth in this community being targeted specifically by this statement.

"This is evidence of a longstanding tradition of religious values overthrowing proven science in the name of 'what is right'; traditional values that value dead kids over trans kids. Additionally, this proves the lack of the separation of church and state in Texas. This sets a dangerous precedent for further banning of medical necessities because of biased viewpoints on the health of others, of which they do not understand."

-Charlie G., Transgender College Student from Texas

Recently, there has been a fight against the tide of transphobia in Texas. The order was blocked by District Judge Amy Clark Meachum, thus halting the attack on transgender youth. However, we can't rest easy against this continued attack on the queer people of Texas. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton deemed the Austin Independent School District's pride week celebration as unlawful due to being considered "sex education" without "parental consent." Despite this, the march continued. We must continue to fight against transphobia and any other kind of attack against LGBTQ+ people.

**THIS ORDER WILL NOT STAND!**

**TRANS LIVES MATTER!**

Keep up the pressure:

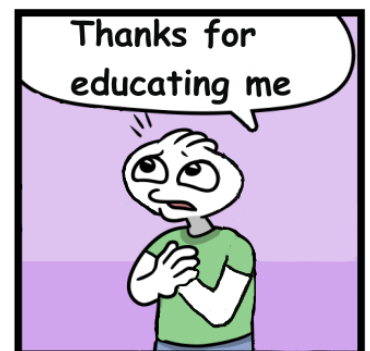
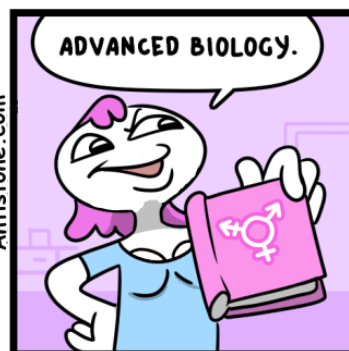
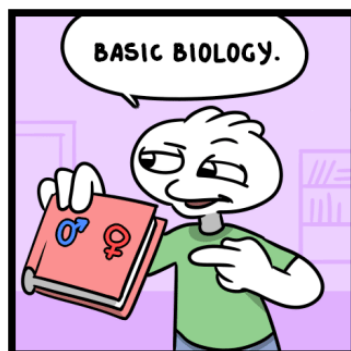
Call: 512-463-1782 to call the governor's office to let them know what you think.

Mail: Office of the Governor, PO Box 12428, Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Call: 800-252-8011 to call Ken Paxton's office to let them know what you think.

Mail: Office of the Attorney General, PO Box 12548, Austin, TX 78711-2548

Send warm thanks over to Austin ISD for fighting against bigotry!



Antistone.com

# OHIO AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR: RACIST PROUD BOY ATTACK ON AKRON WOMAN DEMANDS ACTION!



Andrew Walls, a leader of the Akron-Canton chapter of the Proud Boys in Ohio, was charged after he appeared to be caught on camera shouting racial slurs at a Black woman and then punching her in the face.

"This changes a lot for me, in the sense that I want to get involved now. This happening was time for me to wake the hell up. And I hate that my daughter has to suffer that for me to wake the hell up."

- David Morgan, Father of Cameron Morgan.

## By The Red Phoenix March 5, 2022

Late Saturday night to early Sunday Morning, Andrew Walls, a 26 year old self identified vice president of the Akron-Canton branch of the Proud Boys, yelled racial epithets at Cameron Morgan, before punching her in the face, and dragging her into the streets by her hair. The video on Twitter, shows the "boy" stumbling drunkenly, yelling slurs at people, and punching Cameron, and being attacked by bystanders for doing so. Cameron suffered a split lip, bruising, at one point swelling made it difficult for her to move her jaw, and a concussion. There are also additional charges pending from another woman who suffered at the hands of this "western chauvinist". Sunday night, after the incident, Andrew Walls called police, and turned himself in Monday afternoon (not so proud after all?). Wells asserts he is not guilty of the charges. Bond is set at \$25,000.

The council on American-Islamic Relations asked Cleveland authorities to give the "far-right gang leader" hate crime charges. Judi Hill, president of the Akron NAACP said "We have to let people know that this isn't acceptable, not just in Akron, but anywhere." The FBI was also handed information about the case to see whether or not this counts as a hate crime, and seeing into Well's connection as a

"proud" "boy".

The rise of right wing extremism, "western chauvinism", and the Proud Boys in particular leads to more violence in the streets. Any form of chauvinism, whether it be racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, is completely opposed to a civil society. It cannot be any other way with ideologies that divide and pit workers at each other.

The Proud Boys are an exclusively male, far-right organization, formed in 2016, which has been designated a hate group by the Anti-Defamation League and the Southern Poverty Law Center. According to the ADL, the Proud Boys currently have 119 active chapters in 46 states. They describe themselves as "western chauvinists," an obvious front for their support of the "white genocide" conspiracy theory. The group's founder, Gavin McInnes, who sued the Southern Poverty Law Center for defamation, expressed that the Proud Boys were a "pro-western fraternity." Their website "claims" that they stand for "minimal government, maximum freedom, anti-political correctness, anti-drug war, closed borders, anti-racial guilt, anti-racism (yeah, sure), pro-free speech, pro-gun rights, glorifying the entrepreneur and venerating the housewife." At the same time in order to join you have to proclaim yourself "a Western chauvinist who refuses to apologize for creating modern world."

The Proud Boys claim to be peaceful, and yet time and time again, we see its members engage in acts of violence. Leaked PB chat logs show its members making threats of injury or even death. One member who goes by Anthony Mastrostefano said, "All I want to do is smash commies too. Actually I'm lying, I'm way past just hitting them. When the time comes I will stop at nothing to fully eradicate them all!" The same chats also show members posting selfies with weapons like axes and knives, while fantasizing about how they might be used against anti-fascist protestors. Proud Boys were amongst some of those who attended the infamous Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, Virginia; where fascists were seen carrying the flag of Nazi Germany and the Confederate flag, while chanting "Jews will not replace us." The Proud Boys have been careful not to be seen associated with Nazis, but the event's own organizer, Jason Kessler, was a sworn-in member of the Proud Boys, and he was seen featured on Gavin McInnes', the founder of the group, own show. The wall they put up between themselves and avowed Nazis is all for show. Proud

Boys were also instrumental in the attack of the US Capitol building on January 6th, 2021. At least 19 of those charged with offenses relating to the riots were associated with the group. On August 4th, they went to a protest in Sacramento wearing shirts that said "Pinochet did nothing wrong".

"Western chauvinism" isn't just trying to push the limits of free speech as they would have you believe, they also have been responsible for multiple attacks.

- October 12, 2018, New York City, they attacked a group of protesters, kicking them, and bragging that they kicked one protester in the head while they lay on the ground, gloating while calling them "a fucking foreigner"
- June 8th, 2018, Portland, they punched a man who tried to argue with them (really standing for "free speech" there huh?)
- May 11th, 2018, Vancouver, they attacked an African American teenager who yelled profanities about Trump.
- September 27th, 2018, they attacked DSA organizers in a bar with pepper spray.

All this and more are documented on the Southern Poverty Law Center's website.

The cowardly, attack by the so called "proud" "boy" Andrew Walls is the latest in a long and storied string of such attacks perpetrated by the group, and as in all other cases, the boy

has attempted to backtrack and backpedal to escape punishment for his actions, pleading not guilty to an attack plainly caught on video, and attempting to explain away a lifetime of hate through the tried and very tired excuse of having been intoxicated. The Akron community, the minority community, and indeed all of Ohio will be better off should justice be served and Andrew Walls be confined to a prison where he can't spread his dangerous message.

The Ohio Division of the American Party of Labor condemns the attack by Andrew Walls as we condemn all chauvinism as dangerous to working people. Chauvinism serves as a lightning conductor that deflects investigation towards the systemic problems of society, and places hatred where there should be unity.



# NEW YORK MAY DAY 2022: PROLETARIAT TOOK THE LEAD

**New York / The Red Phoenix, May 9th 2022**

The most crowded May Day of recent years took place in New York City, USA. The May Day rally, led by coalitions of migrant workers, construction workers of Local 79 and Amazon workers, who managed to get a union in this company for the first time, continued with speeches on Foley Square. The demand for an end to discrimination against immigrants and the removal of barriers to unionization comes to the fore on New York May Day.

American Party of Labor (APL) and its allies joined May Day Festival in Bushwick, Brooklyn. APL members introduced Marxist-Leninist literature together with the Red Star Publishers to the attendees of the festival.



The festival was organized by May Day Space, which is a community-based platform to provide social justice groups a space. Another borough festival was held in Sunset Park by progressive, socialist and Latin American community-based groups. Cultural activities and folkloric dances were presented.



Our sources reported that there were some progressive and socialist groups, including Workers' World Party (WWP), which celebrated May Day in Union Square. While Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL) held a rally in Herald Square on May Day, Progressive Labor Party marched through Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, on Saturday last week.

All New York rallies, marches and festivals were either more crowded than last year, or more energetic. As socialist and working class forces join their efforts, and work in their own communities, they showed the path to success and towards building a better future.

## THREE WORKERS ON WHAT ROE V WADE MEANS TO THEM:



Sarah Jeanne Rohr

### Sarah Jeanne Rohr from Seattle:

"As this may affect access to contraceptives, I just wanted to put it out there that being on birth control is actually preserving my ability to have children, because it decreases and delays my risk for developing a cyst that could overtake the one ovary I have left.

And even if it's just an issue of cost, it's still cruel, maybe even more cruel, because those suffering financial crisis need access to prevention more than anyone."

### Grace from Chicago:

"The efforts and focus of the rights and protections that Roe v. Wade provided for a nation of millions of women meant full citizenship, independence, privacy, respect, autonomy, and safe healthcare. Despite the efforts of the brave women before me, access to safe abortion was still under fire, but it was not criminalized. Wanting to live, survive, and thrive was not a criminal act. That is, it wasn't until now.

"We are facing oppressively dark times ahead as millions of women audaciously ask for basic human rights in "the land of the free." Roe v Wade gave women the dignity and privacy to make difficult decisions with their doctors and loved ones. Abortion isn't every woman's first choice, but it is her right to make that choice. To take such a thing away is to strip every woman of basic human rights, of their self-determination, and their status as human being, turning them into reproductive property."

### Lucy from Los Angeles:

"The government clearly does not care about my abuse, just like my narcissist didn't care. All I can really say is that I was raped at fifteen and I can't imagine having a baby that young. It would have ruined my life as well as the child's. Children don't deserve a father like that."



**EVERY STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION HAS ITS HOME IN THE PARTY OF LABOR!**

**AMERICAN PARTY OF LABOR . COM**

# NOW IS THE TIME TO TAKE ACTION! "NOW IS THE TIME TO BE IN THE STREETS:" AN INTERVIEW WITH A STUDENT ORGANIZER

Rise Up 4 Abortion, Seattle, May 2022



Interviewed by Red Phoenix Correspondent, Seattle, Isabelle B., May 2022

*During the May protests in Seattle against the Roe v. Wade draft decision that would overturn the legal protection of abortion rights, a Red Phoenix correspondent spoke to one of the organizers, Maegan. Maegan is a first year student at the University of Washington pursuing a degree in Gender Studies. She has been a student organizer for the organization Rise Up 4 Abortion Rights for several months leading up to the leaked Supreme Court draft. The interview is transcribed below.*

**RP:** The battle for reproductive rights has been going on for decades. Was there an event that made you get involved/when did you get involved?

**Maegan:** Last October I went to my first Women's March and if I remember it right it was a rally in response to the Texas abortion restriction law. Being there with other pro-choice individuals made me feel so empowered and kind of opened the doors of what I want to pursue in life. That was actually the reason why I am now majoring in Gender studies at UW. A few months later I heard about another protest happening and this time it was organized by Rise Up 4 Abortion Rights. Initially, I had no intentions of being part of the organizing team, I just wanted to be there in solidarity, but then I started to see how little organizations were focused on preventing the Supreme Court from overturning Roe v. Wade. I didn't like what I was seeing and I wanted to change that to work towards having greater mobilization in the pro-choice community and what greater way to do that than to work with an organization that is already working towards that? Since then I've been organizing with the local chapter for Rise Up 4 Abortion Rights.

**RP:** You played an instrumental role in organizing a successful walkout at the University of Washington. What was the general response of the students you heard from?

**Maegan:** I think that the biggest factor as to why we had such a great turnout for that walkout is because of how angered and disgusted the youth are with the potential overturning of Roe v. Wade. Everyone that showed up do not want their dreams

or the dreams of the people that they love to be broken just because they couldn't get an abortion. Everyone that showed up believe that access to a safe abortion is a fundamental right and they want to keep it that way.

**RP:** What does Roe v. Wade mean to you?

**Maegan:** Roe v. Wade isn't just about having access to abortion. This case brought ground to make birth control access, interracial marriage, same-sex marriage, and LGBTQ+ relationship legal. If Roe v. Wade gets overturned it will create a domino effect over the mentioned rights.

**RP:** There is a large presence of socialists at pro-choice events. What are your thoughts on the intersection of class and reproductive rights?

**Maegan:** Even right now as abortion is still legal, people with low-income have fewer access to abortion due to geographic reasons, 24 hour waiting period, and unaffordable care. If Roe v. Wade gets overturned, people living in states that will have a total-ban on abortions will have to travel miles and miles away. Although out-of-state funding is an option that doesn't take care of the hours that they would have to miss from work.

**RP:** As a student organizer at a university campus, how do you interact with other parts of the community for mobilization?

**Maegan:** In the past I've emailed RSOs (Registered Student Organizations) on my campus and go around campus to hand out flyers about our organization/protests as a form of invitation to join our movement. In the past week I've been co-organizing with other UW students and students from Seattle University.

**RP:** Is there any action from the university administration that you would like to see?

**Maegan:** We want them to join us in our walkouts, in our rallies, and marches. I also hope for them to help educate the greater student body about this urgent issue.

**RP:** What do you hope to achieve with walkouts?

**Maegan:** Our goal is to mobilize the 70% of pro-choice people in this country. To keep them from staying silent. To show the government that overturning Roe v. Wade will anger more than half of this country. We only have till summer before they published the official decision which is why we shouldn't just wait for November. We shouldn't prepare for a Post-Roe generation. It's easier to fight for an already protected right than to start from scratch.

**RP:** How is your organization supporting people who currently do not have access to abortion, and/or how will you help people when this access is taken away?

**Maegan:** To be transparent I don't know the answer to this question, but I will talk to the national organizer and get an answer.

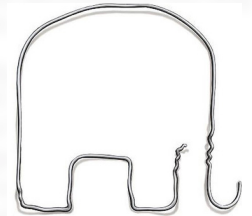
**RP:** How would you like to see organizations who are not focused solely on reproductive rights support the movement?

**Maegan:** We want them to join us in the streets.

**RP:** Why should working people support this movement, even if they are not able to get pregnant?

**Maegan:** Again I would like to reiterate that Roe v. Wade doesn't just protect safe and legal abortions. It was because of the penumbra from this case that protects LGBTQ relationships, birth control access, interracial marriage, and same-sex marriage. This fight is not just for childbearing people. This fight isn't just to protect childbearing people. This is why we have to unite everyone from different perspectives and different viewpoints around the objective of stopping the decimation of this long-established human right.

**RP:** What, if anything, should be done about anti-abortion organizations? This includes large organizations, such as the Republican Party, and smaller local groups?



**Maegan:** They're not really the focus of our group right now. I personally have had civil conversations with some of them (ex. PAAU) and I'll take a long time before they change their beliefs on abortion. Our main focus is to work with the already pro-choice individuals.

**RP:** The American Party of Labor believes that reformism and electoralism has failed the working class overall, and we see that reality very clearly with the lack of protection of abortion rights. Do you think there is any place for electoralism and reformism in this struggle? If so, how? If not, where do you think our efforts should be directed?

**Maegan:** I'm all for elections and voting blue, but that's way past the time the Supreme Court will release their decision on Roe v. Wade. November would be too late. Now is the time to be out in the streets. To walk out of the confines of this oppressive political atmosphere and show the officials that they won't get away with this subjugation of our people.

At Seattle Central College on May 14, at 1pm, Rise Up 4 Abortion organized a rally, and is hosting protests every week. You can find them on social media:

Instagram: [@rise4abortionrights](#) and [@students4abortionrights](#).

Socialist organizations will be joining them, including the American Party of Labor.

## The American Party of Labor is...

a revolutionary working class organization. Our aim is to abolish the capitalist system and replace it with a socialist, working democracy, a system based on the principle laid out by Marx, "from each according to his ability, to each according to his need." There can be no true freedom or democracy, we argue, when billionaires have more wealth than the bottom 90% of Americans.

### Who Can Join? How Do I Get Involved?

Every working person who is open to our plan for change, agrees with our Program and Platform and is over the age of 18 is welcome to join.

To look at our joining procedure, activity, membership FAQ, and more: please visit:

[bit.ly/JoinTheAPL](http://bit.ly/JoinTheAPL)

You can find everything that you should know about us here, and you can contact us and connect to members in your area.

If we don't have a presence in your city, we'll get to know you and help you establish one.

### Why be Marxist-Leninists in the USA in the 21st century?

There is an important fundamental difference between Marxism and other so-called anti-capitalist or "third way" theories. Marx, unlike many thinkers of his day, did not just see a problem with capitalism that could be mitigated. Instead, he and his compatriots analyzed capitalism itself to understand how the system worked. Marx's ideas for revolution are based off of that analysis, and the experiences of the struggles in Europe of 1848. Solutions to the problems of capitalism can only be reached by understanding and observing the system itself, textured with the political reality of the country and historical struggles. This is why we think revolutionary history is worth talking about, and making part of our platform.

Regarding the regulation of capitalism and emergent social democratic reform movements, it is not uncommon that capitalist states restrict the private sector for various reasons. The problem is that political power is still stacked in favor of the ruling class, they have every avenue and all the resources necessary undo reforms and regulations. What truly led to the collapse of the socialist bloc was not that these countries pursued communism, which was ultimately too radical, but rather that these nations pursued market style reforms until they had more or less become capitalist countries. As we have seen in the US, liberal victories are short-lived.

Today, social democratic movements would have us do much the same, if not less - regulate capitalism, nationalize some industry, and try to maintain a welfare state- without expropriating the ruling class, without giving the nation a clear direction for the future, and worst of all, without putting the working class in power. We cannot face climate change, resurgent fascism, police brutality, the exploitation of oppressed nations, and the threat of American imperialism around the world without a revolutionary, centrally organized movement.

### How is the American Party of Labor Different From Other Organizations?

**An Anti-Revisionist, Internationalist Party:** The American Party of Labor is a dedicated anti-revisionist party, opposed to concessions to capitalists, and critical of all imperialist actions by the US, Russia, and China. The APL is an observer member in the International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Parties and Organizations (ICMLPO), and participates in the international anti-revisionist struggle.

**A Party of Working Class People:** The American Party of Labor is made up of workers fighting for workers rights. Many of our members are in active union and unionization struggles, and we all do our political work after clocking out.

**A Party of Equals:** The APL is active in the fight for the rights of women, oppressed nations, the LGBTQIA+ community, and immigrants, and for the community control of police departments. In 2019, the APL was a founding member in the National Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression.

**Forever Anti-Fascist:** We take the anti-fascist legacy of the Marxist-Leninist movement. Members of the American Party of Labor are dedicated anti-fascists, and active in movements against the Far-Right on college campuses, and the barbaric treatment of immigrants at the border.



**"The Lady with the Lamp, the Statue of Liberty, stands in New York Harbour. Her back is squarely turned on the USA. It's no wonder, considering what she would have to look upon. She would weep, if she had to face this way."**

**— Claudia Jones**



**Legalize Workers - No More Detentions, No More Deportations, Abolish I.C.E.!**

**Guaranteed Work and a Livable Income!**

**Socialized Healthcare For All!**

**Nationalized Healthcare!**

**Free Education For All!**

**Equal Rights, Pay, and Housing For All!**

**End All Wars of Aggression!**

**Abolish Private Prisons, Free All Political Prisoners!**

**No Platform for Fascists!**

**Abolish Profit Made By the Exploitation of Labor!**

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### Our General Line.

1. The American Party of Labor comes from and represents the American working class. From time to time and place to place there may be individuals who are admitted to the Party who do not have a working class background, or are not currently considered to be working class by Marxist-Leninist ideology and principles. Such individuals are exceptions to the general rule, as they have in effect transcended their class through conscious application of Marxist-Leninist ideology.

2. The American Party of Labor maintains that value in society is produced by human action within the material world. That is to say, value is created by the consumption of labor power. The working classes, which have only their labor power to sell for their daily sustenance, therefore make production possible. We call for the reorganization of society to provide the means of production to the working class to be administered either under an elected or selected management or collectively through a council system.

3. The American Party of Labor demands the abolition of private property and that all means of production be in the hands of the working class. Profit under capitalism is extracted surplus value from the consumption of labor power and constitutes a theft from the working class by the capitalist ruling class. Under our system, the working class will be paid the full value of their production less the necessary deductions to support the state and its various cultural, economic and social support projects.

4. The American Party of Labor demands that all oppressed nations within the context of the American Empire, including, but by no means limited to, Indigenous peoples, Native Hawaiians, Guamanians and Puerto Ricans (within the context of Puerto Rico), be given national self-determination as to whether or not they wish to remain in the American socialist state, which shall be constructed on the remnants of the United States. We call for the end of the so-called commonwealth system in all U.S. imperial possessions. The nations in these political organizations should either choose to become a U.S. state or an independent country.

5. The American Party of Labor demands the cancellation of all current debt held by developing countries to the U.S. These loans were not made with the intention of helping the people of these countries, but rather to enslave those countries with debt.

6. The American Party of Labor is a party against all imperialism. We are opposed to all wars of aggression on the world stage and all other threats of war and military intervention. We call for the immediate withdrawal of all U.S. troops from abroad. We stand shoulder-to-shoulder with all occupied peoples and with all nations living underneath neo-colonial regimes. We call for the end of foreign aid to Israel, Colombia and other outposts of capitalist and imperialist aggression.

7. The American Party of Labor is an internationalist party. All peoples around the globe struggling for their emancipation from their own systems of exploitation are our allies. We extend our hands to all revolutionary organizations guided by Marxism-Leninism worldwide and to national liberation movements of exploited peoples of all countries because our cause is one and the same.

8. The American Party of Labor demands the U.S. withdrawal from NATO and other imperialist alliances.

9. The American Party of Labor stands fully against the militarization of the U.S.-Mexican border. It supports the rights of immigrants in Latin America and the Caribbean, that drive sustenance farmers off their lands and to the United States due to a lack of economic opportunity in their native countries.

10. The American Party of Labor has a more generalized list of our demands and positions in a separate document called the Party Platform.