

PRO-LIFE PROTECTION ASSESSMENT

*Public Health + DE&I Departments
Ottawa County, Michigan*

MESSAGE FROM FOUNDERS

JOE MOSS, SYLVIA RHODEA, SANDY BETTEN



From its inception, and with intentionality, Ottawa Impact has been deeply committed to the protection of unborn life, as well as the protection of the innocence of children and youth targeted by Planned Parenthood and its progressive, activist allies.

Ottawa Impact's core team is comprised of numerous individuals who have been actively engaged on pro-life and pro-child innocence issues within Ottawa County for many years.

Our passion for life, and defending against the infiltration and advancement of pro-abortion and pro-Planned Parenthood actions, resources, and alliances within Ottawa County government, is equal to our passion for freedom.

ASSESSMENT COMPILED BY SYLVIA RHODEA

OVERVIEW

**DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH**

Ottawa County, Michigan

OVERVIEW OF DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Over the past year, the Ottawa County Commissioners have denied their statutory authority over the Department of Public Health, claiming their hands are tied in matters related to public health and Covid-19.

On December 6, 2021, the Honorable Judge Jon Hulsing of the Ottawa County Circuit Court clarified the matter, stating, “Can a local health officer abuse his or her authority? Absolutely! What can be done? County board hired her, county board can fire her.” The judge continued, “One can think of a number of situations where a local health officer could exceed his or her ground of common sense. Fire the officer [or change state] law.”

The promotion of abortion aligned resources via the Ottawa County Department of Public Health is yet another situation where common sense has been exceeded.

In matters of public health, the Ottawa County Commissioners have the authority to ensure appropriate operations of the Department of Public Health through oversight of the Health Officer.

Commissioners Baumann, Dannenberg, Holtvluwer, Meppelink, and Terpstra sit on the Ottawa County Health and Human Services committee, and ALL county commissioners oversee the Health Officer and vote on the budget of Ottawa County. County Commissioners who espouse pro-life beliefs ought to practically apply those beliefs to active oversight and protection of the county government and citizens from the promotion of abortion and abortion allied organizations and tools within county bureaucracy.

Ottawa County's Sexuality Educator is deeply connected to pro-abortion and Comprehensive Sexuality Education activism (CSE) as a member of the board of the Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health (MOASH), which advocates for abortion without parental consent, and CSE in schools.

Ottawa County provides a myriad of pro-abortion resources through their official website and youth Facebook page, which connect to abortion advocates, Planned Parenthood, and abortion providers.

Ottawa County Commissioners: Oversight of the Department of Public Health



miOttawa Department of
Public Health

#Alberda

Heather Alberda, BA CSE
AASECT Certified Sexuality Educator
Ottawa County Department of Public Health



County website birth control options link to Bedsider, as well as promotion elsewhere.

BEDSIDER
We've got you covered



Ottawa Youth Sexual Health Coalition
Nonprofit Organization

MOASH, BEDSIDER, and multiple other activist sexuality organizations are promoted on the Ottawa Youth Sexual Health Coalition Page, with the county listed as the location and contact info. These orgs are also promoted to the county through the parent packet and other materials.



Planned Parenthood

AbortionFinder

Embedded into BEDSIDER, with both BEDSIDER and AbortionFinder being created by Power to Decide. AbortionFinder was created in partnership with Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers.


OVERVIEW OF DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



MOASH: Instagram post on February 18, 2022




MOASH: Instagram post on November 16, 2021

Are you a provider? Visit [Bedsider Providers](#) 


Sign Up | Log In [español](#)

BEDSIDER

We've got you covered

Birth control ▾ Abortion ▾ Sex & relationships ▾ Sexual health & wellness ▾ Lifestyle & inspiration ▾ Find health care ▾ 

From birth control info to sex tips, we've got you covered.




Check out your birth control options.

Find a method that fits your body and your life with our interactive method explorer.

[explore birth control options](#)


Find health care



Find a health center

Whether you need a new birth control prescription, STI testing, a Pap smear, or any other reproductive health service, our clinic finder will help you locate a health care provider near you.


[find a provider](#)



Find an abortion provider

Abortion is a common and safe medical procedure that lets you end a pregnancy. Our national directory will help you find your nearest abortion providers.

[find a service](#)



Get birth control delivered

Depending on where you live, you may not even have to leave your house to get birth control.

[get it online](#)

OVERVIEW OF DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Abortion Finder: Instagram post on July 26, 2021

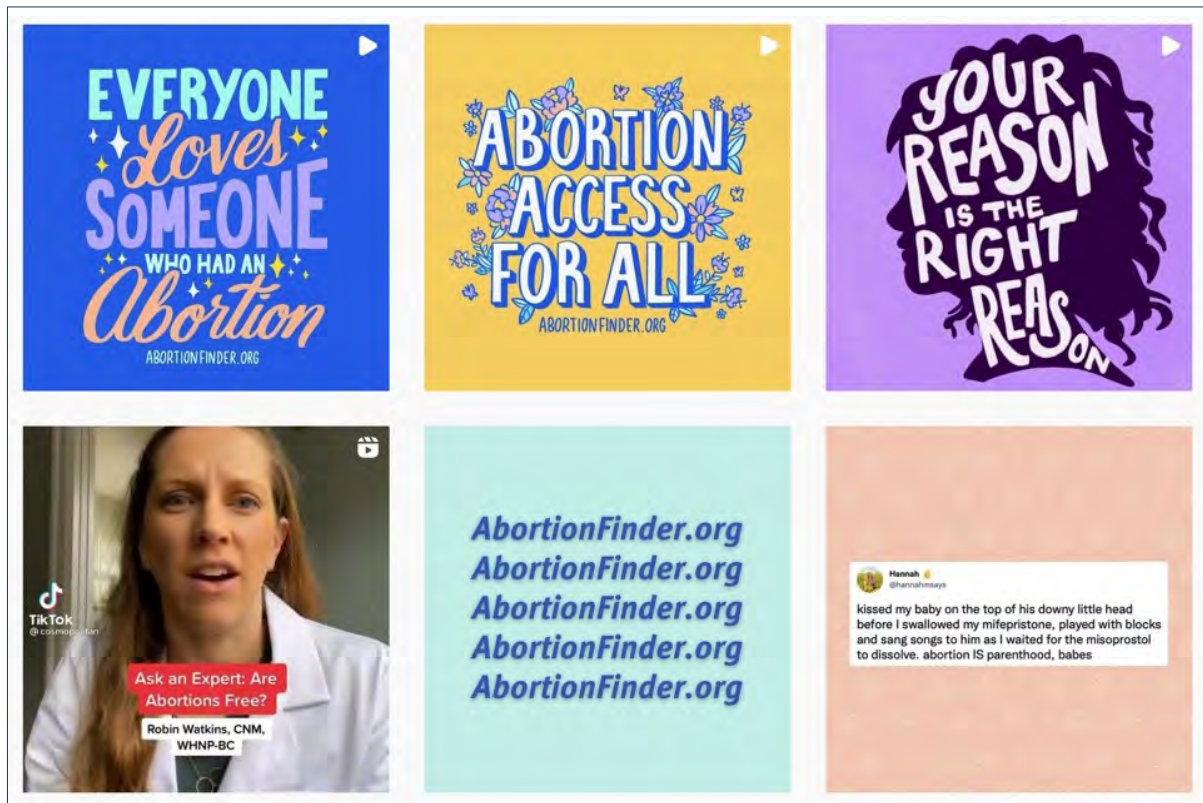


Abortion Finder: Instagram post on January 26, 2022

OVERVIEW OF DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Abortion Finder: Instagram post on July 26, 2021



Abortion Finder: Social media graphics

OVERVIEW OF DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The screenshot shows the top of a website with a dark purple header. On the left is the 'POWER TO DECIDE' logo, and on the right is a hamburger menu icon. Below the header is a light grey bar with the text 'POWER TO DECIDE'. The main content area features a background image of a hand typing on a laptop keyboard. Overlaid on this is a white text box with a dark purple header that reads 'ABORTION IS STILL LEGAL'. Below this, there is a paragraph of text and a purple button that says 'FIND A PROVIDER'.

POWER TO DECIDE

POWER TO DECIDE

ABORTION IS STILL LEGAL

But countless people face insurmountable barriers to access their care. Visit AbortionFinder.org for clear, up-to-date information on verified abortion providers near you.

[FIND A PROVIDER](#)

Power to Decide Website

The image shows two panels from a website. The top panel features a woman smiling while looking at her phone. To her right is a section titled 'What to say when you call' with a list of bullet points. The bottom panel features a woman sitting on a yoga mat looking at a laptop. To her right is a section titled 'WHERE CAN YOU GET AN ABORTION?' with a paragraph of text and a purple button that says 'LOOK NOW'.

What to say when you call

It's easy. We promise.

- Decide which methods you're interested in or just say you're interested in birth control.
- Call to make an appointment.
- Ask about low-cost pricing.
- Ask what the exam includes. (It's good to know.)
- Write down the date, time, and address.

WHERE CAN YOU GET AN ABORTION?

It should be easier for people across the US to access abortion. Abortion Finder, a product of Bedsider, is an easy-to-use search tool with a comprehensive nationwide database of abortion providers. It will help you find the provider that can best meet your needs.

[LOOK NOW](#)

Power to Decide Website

PLANNED PARENTHOOD

Ottawa County, Michigan

On June 3, 2019, the parent group Conservatives of Allendale Stand Together posted a short article on Facebook titled, Let's Just Put Planned Parenthood on the Door. The deeper one looks into the Ottawa County Department of Public Health, the more appropriate this title appears. Following is the 2019 post.

What should parents know about their children obtaining sexual health services through the Ottawa County Health Department, services their children may connect to through the Stayteen website recommended for 9th grade Allendale Sex Ed? First of all, there is no parental consent, and services, including contraception, are provided confidentially. When contraception fails, as it to often does, students reach out to the provider of that contraception, as Abby Johnson of Unplanned has detailed.

You should also know the Health Department has been involved in the Sex Ed Advisory Board process with Allendale Public Schools since early 2018, offering their assistance when they learned there may be the potential for changes to Allendale's curriculum. In January 2018, Heather Alberda, Sexuality Educator with the Ottawa County Health Department, contacted Dr. Reynolds, then newly hired Assistant Superintendent, to offer her assistance with the Sex Ed Advisory Board process. See attached email (where she also notes she has previously provided on site STI testing to Allendale's New Options students.). In addition, she offered to do focus groups with Allendale students on sexual health issues. Dr. Reynolds was happy to bring her on board. (You can let APS know you do not consent to your child participating in surveys or focus groups on sexual topics.)

Ms. Alberda is an advocate of Planned Parenthood aligned Comprehensive Sex Education and offers her services to Sex Ed Advisory Boards throughout the area. Through the Ottawa County Health Department, Ms. Alberda also provides an infant to teen sexuality education packet to parents of Ottawa County, which includes Planned Parenthood materials. Several of the book and website resources included align with the Planned Parenthood Comprehensive Sex Ed agenda, including Advocates for Youth, which promotes the 3-R's, an over the top and too much way too young Sex Ed Curriculum (also recommended by Ottawa County OAISD to Dr. Reynolds), Planned Parenthood's Sex Etc.org website, as well as Stayteen (See our earlier post on this website resource which will be used with 9th grade APS students.).

Ms. Alberda serves as Secretary on the board of MOASH.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD IN OTTAWA COUNTY

“The Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health (MOASH) supports the implementation of medically accurate, evidence-informed, age-appropriate, and comprehensive sexual health education in schools that is inclusive and affirming of all sexual identities.” More [here](#)...

“Often youth are disproportionately impacted by the challenges (finances, transportation, insurance, proximity to quality care facilities, provider competence and support, etc.) that most people face in seeking care, and they also face unique challenges as minors regarding confidentiality and parental consent.”

In its official position regarding abortion, MOASH states, “Specifically, minors’ access to abortion is often obstructed by the legal mandate for parental consent or a court-provided waiver of parental consent, obtained only via judicial bypass process. We support the removal of the parental consent mandate in Michigan.”

Should the office of Ottawa County’s sexual health services be used to promote Planned Parenthood materials and its agenda to our children IN our schools? Should the Health Department promote or provide their medical care to our students IN SCHOOL without parental consent or notification? Does MOASH and the Planned Parenthood agenda align with the values of the majority of Ottawa County? Should the tax dollars of one of the most Conservative counties in Michigan be used in this manner? Maybe we should just go ahead and put Planned Parenthood on the door.

Parental concerns in Allendale Public Schools surfaced in regards to Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) and its progressive content/website access to sexuality and abortion issues in early 2018, several years before concerns became prevalent across the state. This was in part due to the coordinated efforts of the sexuality educator of the Ottawa County Health Department, consultants from the OAISD on sex ed, and pro-CSE staff and parents in the school district, despite Allendale being a strongly Conservative community.

Parents completed a wide-sweeping FOIA to uncover what was influencing the district’s decisions, and filed a formal complaint with the school district and the OAISD based on its findings. Further research was completed based on the FOIA return, and [alliance114.com](#) and Informed Parents of Michigan were created to inform parents across the state of the strategies, governmental bureaucracies, and special interest groups at play in influencing our schools and children on issues of sexuality and life.

ABORTION &
**COMPREHENSIVE
SEXUALITY ED**

Ottawa County, Michigan

Children are increasingly exposed to sexualized content in public schools. Books read to little ones, books in libraries and classrooms, anti-bullying campaigns, sexual behavior surveys and focus groups, and graphic Sex Ed curriculum and resource websites bring sexualized content to children, and normalize conversation about sexual subjects in the school setting.

The *National Sexuality Education Standards*, a collaboration of Planned Parenthood and sexuality activist groups, is a driving force behind the increase in sexual content in schools, promoting the integration of graphic Comprehensive Sex Education (CSE) into K-12 Health and other curriculum. As part of CSE, children are taught to be allies and advocates for the content they are taught, and that they do not need to follow the beliefs of their parents or families on sex and sexuality, and that includes abortion. More information on CSE is available at [alliance114](#), including [Michigan specific influences](#), where the Ottawa County Health Department is highlighted.

The K-12 Advisory Committee for the *National Sexuality Education Standards* which CSE curriculum is based upon was made up of individuals from multiple organizations, including Laurie Bechhofer, HIV/STD Education Consultant from the Michigan Department of Education, who co-founded and continues to serve on the Board of [MOASH](#) with **Heather Alberda, Ottawa County's Sexuality Educator.**



Confidential STI testing is available for individuals at risk. Additional tests may be recommended based on symptoms and/or risk factors. No parental consent is required.

Meet MOASH's Board of Directors:



ABORTION & COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY ED

The screenshot shows the MOASH website header with a navigation menu: About Us, Support Us, Contact Us, Advocacy, and Resources. Below the header is a list of board members:

- COLBY SPENCER CESARO - BOARD CO-CHAIR
- CRAIG VANKEPEN - BOARD CO-CHAIR
- HEATHER ALBERDA - BOARD SECRETARY**

Heather Alberda, BA (Holland), has been a Sexuality Educator with the Ottawa County Department of Public Health for the past 17 years. She received her BA in Criminal Justice from Grand Valley State University and recently completed the University of Michigan Sexual Health Certificate Program. Heather received her AASECT certification as a sexuality educator in 2014, and is one of five certified sexuality educators in Michigan. Her focus over the years has included STI/teen pregnancy prevention, providing parents with the power and information to encourage healthy sexual conversations as well as chairing the local sexual health coalition. Heather's passion lies within empowering youth and encouraging them to seek correct information about sexuality. In August 2017 Heather was recognized for her work in expanding Wear One (a condom distribution program) at the MI State STD Conference with an Outstanding Innovations Award. Wear One is now covers 40 counties in MI, including the U. P and 3 college campuses...providing access to more than 25% of Michigan's population. She has written for Juicebox, a sexual health app and was recently featured in Bustle highlighting STI testing, The Atlantic speaking about the 20th Anniversary of "The Care and Keeping of You" and in West Michigan Woman, adding to the conversation on #metoo.
- NAOMI KHALIL - BOARD TREASURER
- Laurie Bechhofer
- Jen Hsu-Bishop
- Micaela Stevenson

MOASH WEBSITE

MOASH recently posted a new statement on SUPPORTING ADOLESCENT AUTONOMY AND ACCESS TO ABORTION CARE AND SERVICES, which included the following;

Support young peoples' access to **comprehensive sex education**, which includes unbiased and medically accurate information on contraception and pregnancy options.

When educated on all their options, young people make well-informed decisions about their bodies, including if and when to continue a pregnancy and/or become parents. Countless stories and research show that adolescents stand by their decisions **if and when to have an abortion** when they feel supported and trusted to make the decision that is right for them.

And;

Advocate for the **removal of the parental consent mandate** to ensure young people can make healthy reproductive choices for themselves.

One of the most burdensome barriers to abortion care for minors is the requirement for parental consent. In Michigan, a young person under the age of 18 must seek written consent from one parent or guardian before getting an abortion, unless they are emancipated.

MOASH is currently supported by the National Institute for Reproductive Health (NIRH) to promote the Reproductive Health Act and a reproductive freedom ballot initiative proposal in Michigan. NIRH has worked with MOASH on a number of initiatives since 2015, when they worked to provide information and access to youth on judicial bypass of parental consent for abortion.

In 2022, NIRH is supporting the Michigan Organization for Adolescent Health (MOASH) and Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network (MUUSJN)—longstanding leaders on reproductive health, rights, and justice in Michigan—to promote the Reproductive Health Act (RHA) and a reproductive freedom ballot initiative proposal to secure access to the full range of reproductive health care, including abortion, in Michigan. MOASH and MUUSJN will work to organize and engage young people and people of faith to ensure that these communities—whose voices are often erased or misconstrued in these conversations—are leading efforts to safeguard reproductive freedom, including abortion access. With NIRH's support, MOASH and MUUSJN will launch efforts that include awareness and advocacy actions among youth, faith-based community members, and other stakeholders in order to pass the RHA and ballot initiative proposal.

WEBSITE RESOURCES

Public Health

WEBSITE RESOURCES

Resource websites used in conjunction with CSE may be problematic, containing links which direct students to inappropriate content, suggest students step away from the values of their families, as well as provide links to medical care outside of parental knowledge and consent.

The use of these websites contributed to the protest of nearly 19K California parents following the implementation of CSE in their schools. Parents in Allendale uncovered similar website concerns ([Scarleteen](#), [love is respect](#), [Stayteen](#)) when evaluating proposed Sex Ed curriculum for their district, as outlined in a [letter to the district](#).

In light of the history of websites aligned with Planned Parenthood and the abortion agenda being used with youth for CSE, as well as Ottawa County Sexuality Educator's involvement with the Michigan Organization for Adolescent Sexual Health (MOASH) which advocates for abortion without parental consent, and her past involvement in the Sex Ed Advisory Board process in local school districts, a review of Ottawa County's website and use of resource websites related to sexual health was conducted.

COUNTY WEBSITE & OUTSIDE WEBSITE RESOURCES

The Ottawa County Department of Public Health lists 10 [birth control options on its website](#) as follows, with 8 birth control options linked from the county website to [Bedsider.org](#);

Birth Control Options

- [Combined oral contraceptives \(the pill\)](#)
- [Progestin only pill \(POP or mini pill\)](#)
- [Vaginal ring](#)
- [Depo-provera \(the shot\)](#)
- [Mirena, Paragard or Liletta \(IUD\)](#)
- [Nexplanon \(Implant\)](#)
- [Non-hormonal options, spermicides and diaphragms.](#)
- [Emergency contraception](#)
- [Condoms](#)
- [Other options may be available](#)

WEBSITE RESOURCES

On the same page are resources & links to Family Planning/STD Clinics;

- [Birth Control Services from the Ottawa County Department of Public Health](#)
- [STD Testing & Treatment from the Ottawa County Department of Public Health](#)
- [Power To Decide](#)
- [Advocates for Youth](#)
- [Reproductive Life Plan](#)
- [Reproductive Life Plan for Teens](#)
- [Reproductive Life Plan for Teens \(Spanish\)](#)
- [Bedsider.org](#)
- [Stayteen.org](#) (redirects to Power to Decide)

The Reproductive Life Plan contains outside resource links to;

- [Power To Decide](#)
- [Advocates for Youth](#)
- [Bedsider](#)
- [Stayteen](#)
- [CDC](#)

GUIDE FOR PARENTS

Public Health

The Reproductive Health Education page of the Department of Public Health opens with a download of *Let's Talk Beyond the Birds and the Bees: A Parent's Guide to Engaging in a Sexual Health Conversation*, providing tips to having “an open, honest, and informed conversations about sex with your children”.

The opening letter of the guide shares, “**The Power to Decide**, the campaign to prevent unplanned pregnancy (powertodecide.org) reports that youth consistently say that parents—not peers, not partners and not popular culture—most influence their decisions about relationships and sex.”

The guide contains multiple pages of Planned Parenthood branded materials and content, as well as content on infant to teen sexuality from Planned Parenthood and Pam Wilson (note pg. 2-4), a sexuality educator who has contributed to the Planned Parenthood aligned *National Sexuality Education Standards*. Book resources (including the notoriously graphic *It's Perfectly Normal*) and website resources are shared at the end of the guide. Included in the list are the following;

- Power To Decide
- Amaze
- Advocates for Youth
- Stayteen (now redirects to Power to Decide)
- Bedsider
- Answer
- MOASH
- Sex etc.
- Sex Positive Families

**OTTAWA YOUTH
SEXUAL HEALTH
COALITION**

Ottawa County, Michigan

The Ottawa Youth Sexual Health Coalition Facebook page has the county website and address listed, along with Ms. Alberda's county email address.

The about section states, "Helping youth and young adults access information regarding healthy sexual choices. A partnership between the Ottawa County Health Dept, Bethany Chr. Services, teen Moms, Catholic Charities of Westen MI, MI Works, OC Courts, and the FOC."

Although the sexual health content slowed down with the onset of Covid-19, previous activity included multiple posts recruiting Ottawa youth to engage with **MOASH** councils and events, Grand Valley's BMM GSA summit, Ottawa County's *Wear One* campaign providing free condom distribution, as well as posts directing to **Bedsider, Power To Decide, Stayteen, Sex etc., love is respect, Scarleteen and Planned Parenthood.**

As with the use of website resources within the context of Comprehensive Sexuality Education, at times the specific information posted on social media from controversial websites such as Scarleteen and Planned Parenthood seems benign, but **the entirety of the websites young people are directed to are problematic.**

EVALUATING
WEBSITE
RESOURCES

Public Health

The Ottawa County Department of Public Health is repeatedly directing the community to specific resource sites. So how do these website resources measure up?

Advocates for Youth, Amaze, Answer, Sex etc., Scarleteen, Planned Parenthood and MOASH are all deeply involved with Comprehensive Sexuality Education in schools and promote abortion. Stayteen has also been used in Comprehensive Sexuality Education, and now redirects to Power to Decide.

BEDSIDER, POWER TO DECIDE, ABORTION FINDER & PLANNED PARENTHOOD




The websites most frequently used by the Health Department, and used specifically on Health Department web pages where clients seeking assistance would visit, are Bedsider and Power to Decide. Bedsider, created by Power to Decide, provides some practical information on sexual health and contraception, making it an attractive resource for schools and health providers. However, **Bedsider is also used by Power To Decide as the digital platform to make the database of Abortion Finder widely available, in partnership with Planned Parenthood and abortion organizations.**



Find a method that fits your body and your life with our interactive method explorer.

[explore birth control options](#)

Find health care

 <h4>Find a health center</h4> <p>Whether you need a new birth control prescription, STI testing, a Pap smear, or any other reproductive health service, our clinic finder will help you locate a health care provider near you.</p> <p>find a provider</p>	 <h4>Find an abortion provider</h4> <p>Abortion is a common and safe medical procedure that lets you end a pregnancy. Our national directory will help you find your nearest abortion providers.</p> <p>find a service</p>	 <h4>Get birth control delivered</h4> <p>Depending on where you live, you may not even have to leave your house to get birth control.</p> <p>get it online</p>
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EVALUATING WEBSITE RESOURCES

Find abortion care

location
enter address, zip, or city

first day of last period
select date

your age
18 or older

find a health center

I don't know the first day of my last period.

Information you enter will be private and anonymous.

BEDSIDER
We've got you covered.

español

Power to Decide issued a [press release regarding Bedsider, Abortion Finder, Planned Parenthood, and abortion providers](#) dated September 15, 2020;

Power to Decide Launches New Abortion Finder;

Today, Power to Decide is proud to launch Abortion Finder, which can be accessed at AbortionFinder.org. Abortion Finder is an easy-to-use digital search tool designed to provide up-to-date information about the availability of abortion care across the country. Abortion Finder features over 750 clinics and provides the most comprehensive directory of trusted and verified abortion service providers in the United States.

The new abortion finder also can be found on Bedsider, a project of Power to Decide. Bedsider is an evidence-based digital health promotion tool serving people age 18-to-29.

“Despite consistent efforts by abortion opponents to block access to abortion care and to create impossible obstacles abortion seekers cannot overcome, abortion care continues to be part of the full spectrum of reproductive health services available for women,” said Gillian Sealy, CEO, Power to Decide. “As such, the new Abortion Finder was designed to mitigate some of these challenges by helping people locate the nearest abortion clinic and access information to help them prepare for their appointment.”

Power to Decide’s new Abortion Finder is made possible through a partnership and coalition of reproductive and sexual health, medical and advocacy organizations, including the National Abortion Federation (NAF) and Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA). The clinics listed are affiliated with NAF and PPFA as well as Abortion Care Network and some unaffiliated independent clinics.

EVALUATING WEBSITE RESOURCES

Bedsider.org (Bedsider) is an evidence-based digital health promotional tool and online birth control support network for people age 18-29 operated by Power to Decide.

Power to Decide is a private, non-partisan, non-profit organization that works to ensure all people—no matter who they are, where they live or what their economic status might be—have the power to decide if, when and under what circumstances to get pregnant and have a child. Please visit us at www.PowerToDecide.org or follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

From **Abortion Finder**:

We made Abortion Finder because we saw firsthand that for too many people, the process of figuring out where and how to get an abortion is confusing, complicated, and overwhelming. We want it to be easier.

Abortion Finder is operated by Bedsider, a project of the nonprofit Power to Decide. Bedsider is a digital platform that provides information about birth control, sex, and sexual health--basically everything you need to have a healthy, happy sex life.

OUR PARTNERS

Abortion Finder is made possible through partnerships with reproductive and sexual health organizations including the **National Abortion Federation (NAF)**, **Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA)**, and **Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health (ANSIRH)**. It includes independent providers as well as providers affiliated with PPFA, NAF, and the **Abortion Care Network (ACN)**. Many organizations and individuals have kindly lent the project their expertise and advice.

About Us

AbortionFinder.org was created to provide clear, up-to-date information about the availability of abortion care across the country. Abortion Finder is operated by Bedsider, a project of Power to Decide.



It is made possible through partnerships with reproductive and sexual health organizations including the National Abortion Federation (NAF), Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA), and Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health (ANSIRH). It includes independent providers as well as providers affiliated with PPFA, NAF, and the Abortion Care Network (ACN). Many organizations and individuals have kindly lent the project their expertise and advice.

ADDITIONAL CONCERNS

Public Health

ADDITIONAL CONCERNS

Multiple initiatives from the Ottawa County Department of Public Health have raised concerns of activism related to Sexual Health, including the Wear One Campaign's distribution of 45K free condoms targeted to young people in our county each year.

The Health Department asserts the target market is for those over the age of 18, but there are no safeguards to ensure younger teens do not access them. MOASH has a policy promoting legislation for condom availability in schools, as it is not currently legal to distribute contraception in schools.

Another issue of county wide concern to parents is the **highly sexualized and intrusive YAS youth behavior survey for 8th, 10th, and 12th graders** at school which normalizes, among other things, sexual interactions at early ages and with multiple partners. The YAS survey has been used to bolster efforts to implement Comprehensive Sexuality Education in area schools. Over the past few years, numerous parents have pushed back on the sexualized YAS survey and asked area schools to implement parental notification and consent on this Health Department sponsored survey. A Facebook post from Ottawa Impact covering the survey received 22,229 views, 8643 interactions, and 232 shares.

CONCLUSION

*Department of Public Health
Ottawa County, Michigan*

CONCLUSION

Ottawa County’s Sexuality Educator is deeply connected to pro-abortion and Comprehensive Sexuality Education activism as a member of the board of MOASH (Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health), which advocates for abortion without parental consent, and CSE in schools.

Web links and resources on the county website, a county Facebook page geared toward youth, as well as links and resources in other county documents, directly connect to pro-abortion advocates with a search feature to find abortion providers. The websites and content provided in the Ottawa County family education packet on birth to adolescent sexual health unabashedly promote Planned Parenthood and its allies. The utilization of website resources to direct youth to abortion information and providers is a known strategy used by of abortion advocates through Comprehensive Sexuality Education.

The Ottawa County Board of Commissioners have statutory authority over the Health Officer who oversees the Department of Public Health, and practically oversee the department on a regular basis through the Health and Human Services Committee and Board of Commissioners meetings. County Commissioners who espouse pro-life beliefs ought to practically apply those beliefs to active oversight and protection of the county government and citizens from the promotion of abortion and abortion allied organizations and tools within county bureaucracy.

We recognize and value that good work is done by the Department of Public Health on sexual health, and we do not disagree with all work or information shared by the Department of Public Health in the area of sexual health. But we do disagree with stepping over the line from providing sexual health services to promoting abortion access and advocacy, as well as pushing sexualized surveys and assisting with the promotion of Planned Parenthood aligned Comprehensive Sexuality Education into our school districts.

SUPPORTIVE IMAGES

A sampling of website resources connected to and promoted by the Ottawa County Department of Public Health can be viewed [HERE](#) (click on an image to view as a gallery).

HISTORY OF
**OTTAWA'S DE&I
DEPARTMENT**

Ottawa County, Michigan

Ottawa County is one of the fastest growing counties in Michigan, and per Wikipedia, “has long been one of the most consistently Republican counties in Michigan and the country,” voting Republican in every Presidential election for the past 150 years.

Ottawa County has been strategically targeted by the progressive left on racial and cultural issues for the last decade, with little defense from its Republican County Commissioners.

This slow infiltration bubbled to the surface in 2018 with powerful, private corporations in Ottawa County pushing the government to create a Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DE&I) office.

Ottawa County joined efforts with the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) as early as 2014, with the County Administrator, overseen by the County Commissioners, being a key player in these efforts.

In 2015, Ottawa County was one of two pilot locations in the U.S. to participate in the Transforming White Privilege Project, with staff from the county Administrator's Office, Sheriff's Office and Human Resources Office participating.

Ottawa County was an early core member of **GARE**, which was created by the progressive parent organizations of **Race Forward** and the **Othering & Belonging Institute of UC Berkeley**, the latter of which was formerly named the Haas Institute for Fair and Inclusive Society.

GARE's parent organizations are directly aligned with the Democratic Party, Planned Parenthood, and sexuality activism, promoting progressive issues including abortion and "reproductive justice" through their social media feeds on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, as well as through Race Forward's online news site, Colorlines.

On April 15, 2022, **Race Forward promoted an eye-opening video on reproductive justice and abortion** from their #RaceAnd: series (originally posted in February of 2022), asking, "How do race and gender intersect with reproductive justice? How can we make abortion activism more inclusive?" Similarly, the Othering & Belonging Institute published a video titled, Inside the Fight for Reproductive Justice on May 3, 2022. **A sampling of additional postings and articles which include abortion and reproductive justice content from Race Forward, Colorlines, and The Othering & Belonging Institute can be found HERE.**

Race Forward received \$1,595,000 in funding from George Soros' Open Society Foundation from 2017 to 2020. The Othering & Belonging Institute/Haas Institute for Fair and Inclusive Society received \$1,125,000 from the Open Society Foundation during the same time period. Also of note, in 2020, Race Forward hired Cathy Albisa as the Vice President of Institutional and Sectoral Change. Ms. Albisa was a constitutional rights litigator at the ACLU and the Center for Reproductive Rights and served as board leadership for National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health.

Ottawa County Commissioners: Oversight of the Infiltration of the Progressive Agenda in Ottawa County



Board Chair Greg DeJong, Philip Kuyers, Roger Bergman, Joseph Baumann, Allen Dannenberg, and Frank Garcia voted to approve the DE&I office in 2018.

GARE's parent orgs promote race equity, abortion rights, and sexuality activism, and recommended opening the DEI office to Ottawa County.



Othering & Belonging Institute

Formerly CSI.
Parent org of GARE out of UC Berkeley.

Member of GARE since 2014/2015, along with progressive cities such as Portland and Seattle.



LOCAL AND REGIONAL
GOVERNMENT ALLIANCE ON
RACE & EQUITY

GARE, the Government Alliance on Race & Equity.



Parent org of GARE. Currently houses GARE. Building on GARE framework to advance Race Equity in Biden's federal government agencies.

COLORLINES

Promotes race equity, abortion rights, and sexuality activism



A new initiative to counter parents advocating for education free of CRT and sexuality activism.

← **Race Forward**
29.6K Tweets Following

↳ Race Forward Retweeted

 **Gothamist** ✓ @Gothamist · May 3 ⋮

New Yorkers are gearing up to march in the streets on Tuesday in the wake of a draft Supreme Court decision that could overturn Roe v. Wade, upending nearly a half century of legal precedent and eroding people's right to abortion access.



gothamist.com
NYC protests planned in wake of bombshell Roe v. Wade report
New York political and community leaders were already mobilizing late Monday and early Tuesday.

Race Forward: Twitter Retweet on May 3, 2022

← **Othering & Belonging Institute** 13.2K Tweets Follow

↳ Othering & Belonging Institute Retweeted

 **Imara Jones** ✓ @imarajones · May 3 ...

Abortion rights and trans rights are one in the same. As @KierraDC and I argue in this piece, the right sees this as one fight in an assault on body autonomy. People need to wake up. #RoevWade @TheTaskForce @translashmedia



lgbtqnation.com
Transgender people get pregnant. And sometimes trans people need...
Trans people deserve access to culturally competent medical care ...

Othering & Belonging Institute: Twitter Retweet on May 3, 2022

HISTORY OF OTTAWA'S DE&I DEPARTMENT



Othering & Belonging Institute: Instagram post on Dec 3, 2021



Othering & Belonging Institute: Instagram post on January 28, 2022

HISTORY OF OTTAWA'S DE&I DEPARTMENT



Othering & Belonging Institute: Instagram post on Dec 7, 2021



Othering & Belonging Institute: Instagram post on January 28, 2022

HISTORY OF OTTAWA'S DE&I DEPARTMENT

COLORLINES

Arts & Culture COVID-19 Criminalization Gender & Sexuality More >>>

Low-Income Women Will Suffer Most Because of Abortion Ban

The state of Mississippi has formally asked The Supreme Court to reverse Roe v. Wade.

SHANI SAXON | JUL 30, 2021 4:29PM EDT

Abortion Rights Activists File Federal Lawsuit Against Texas Abortion Ban

The state law, set to take effect on September 1, bans abortions as early as six weeks, and allows private citizens to sue anyone who helps a person get an abortion.

SHANI SAXON | JUL 15, 2021 10:17AM EDT

Colorlines Q&A: Meet Yamani Hernandez, a Black Person at the Helm of a 'Revolutionary' Abortion Org

"So there's hope on one side and despair on the other. I think the next year or two will be very telling," says the executive director of The National Network of Abortion Funds.

AYANA BYRD | FEB 19, 2021 2:08PM EST

Color Lines: February and July 2021

California Poised to Be First State to Provide Free Medication Abortions to College Students

The law will benefit the students at public universities in the state, who are predominantly people of color and may face geographic and economic hurdles to obtaining the medical procedure.

AYANA BYRD | SEP 16, 2019 3:18PM EDT

Court Temporarily Blocks Missouri's Eight-Week Abortion Ban

But new restrictions—including for cases of fetal Down Syndrome—were allowed to go into effect.

AYANA BYRD | AUG 28, 2019 1:37PM EDT

Planned Parenthood Withdraws From Title X Program

"We believe that the Trump administration is doing this as an attack on reproductive health care and to keep providers like Planned Parenthood from serving our patients."

AYANA BYRD | AUG 19, 2019 4:21PM EDT

Planned Parenthood's New Leader On Racial Equity and Reproductive Health Freedom

Alexis McGill Johnson talks to Colorlines about bringing her life's work as a racial justice organizer to the reproductive health care organization.

AYANA BYRD | AUG 9, 2019 1:28PM EDT

Planned Parenthood President Exits as Organization Prepares for Political Fight

Dr. Leana Wen, who is leaving after eight months, maintains that abortion is a health care—not political—issue.

AYANA BYRD | JUL 17, 2019 2:16PM EDT

New Blueprint For Reproductive Justice Hopes to Transform Health Care

More than 80 organizations wrote a manifesto to bring about new policies even as growing conservatism seeks to limit access to reproductive care.

AYANA BYRD | JUL 16, 2019 2:45PM EDT

Color Lines: July, August and September 2019

GARE MEMBERSHIP

Ottawa County, Michigan

Ottawa County is a Midwest Core Member of GARE.

GARE core memberships for city or county jurisdictions require a demonstrated commitment to advancing racial equity across all functions and employees, from frontline staff to elected officials.

Frequent participation by the jurisdiction with the organization network is required. Counties must pay annual dues based on number of employees, with **Ottawa's expense for membership projected to be \$5,000/year for 1,001 – 4,000 employees.**

Additional GARE members include the progressive cities of Portland, Seattle, and Minneapolis. Governor Whitmer's MDHHS and the Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR), aligned with Attorney General Dana Nessel, are also members of GARE. In early 2019, AG Nessel and MDCR created "a process to document incidents of hate and bias that don't rise to the level of criminal or civil infractions," creating a database of such incidents in Michigan. Both GARE and the Michigan Department of Civil Rights have provided direct training to Ottawa County through Ottawa's DE&I office.

ESTABLISHMENT OF
OTTAWA'S DE&I
DEPARTMENT

Ottawa County, Michigan

ESTABLISHMENT OF OTTAWA'S DE&I DEPARTMENT

In December of 2018, under the leadership of Board Chair Greg DeJong, the Commissioners voted to establish the DE&I Department at the request of large local corporations.

The department was budgeted to cost \$1.1 million over 5 years, with the county committing to \$631K, and community foundations and corporations covering the remaining portion, which was primarily paid by the outside sources in the early years. (The department added a staff member in 2022 and has requested additional expenditures, raising the projected cost to county outlined below by approximately 100k.)

2019 \$12,575
2020 \$77,995
2021 \$109,975
2022 \$196,955 (actual expense now approximately \$270,000)
2023 \$234,460
2024 \$266,757 (year 6)

The commissioners who voted to approve the office were; Board Chair Greg DeJong, Philip Kuyers, Roger Bergman, Joseph Baumann, Allen Dannenberg, and Frank Garcia. Commissioners Michael Haverdink, James Holtvluwer and Matthew Fenske voted against. Kelly Kuiper was absent.

In February of 2019, the request to fund and staff the DE&I office for the first year was approved by Board Chair Greg DeJong, and Commissioners Philip Kuyers, James Holtvluwer, Frank Garcia, Allen Dannenberg, Roger Bergman, Douglas Zylstra, Kyle Terpstra, and Joseph Baumann. Commissioners Meppelink and Fenske were absent. The request included hiring a Director of DE&I at a cost of \$124,961.00 and a Senior Secretary at a cost of \$64,478.00, with a 2% increase each year for cost-of-living adjustment, 5% health insurance increase and salary step increases.

In the board packet for this vote was a letter dated January 30, 2019, from **Julie Nelson, Senior Vice President of Race Forward; Senior Fellow, Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society at the University of CA, Berkeley (now the Othering and Belonging Institute); and Co-Director of GARE.** **Julie Nelson** asked the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners to support County Administrator Al Vanderberg's proposal to establish the DE&I office in Ottawa County (proposal pg. 49-60, GARE letter pg. 57-59). Race Forward, Center for Social Inclusion, and GARE logos were included on the top of Ms. Nelson's recommendation letter.

Ms. Nelson wrote, "Ottawa County has been a Core Member of the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) for the past three years. **County Administrator Al Vanderberg actually attended our very first gathering that led to the establishment of GARE as a peer-to-peer, membership-led, membership-driven network in 2014.**"

ESTABLISHMENT OF OTTAWA'S DE&I DEPARTMENT

In spite of the ability to research and be familiar with GARE and its parent organizations' promotion of the progressive agenda through **the county's membership with GARE**, as well by researching the **organizations represented on Ms. Nelson's letter**, the majority Republican Ottawa County Board of Commissioners voted to fund the DE&I Department. Ongoing funding of the DE&I Department/GARE membership occurs through the yearly county budget.

The Ottawa County DE&I Department's first county Diversity Training in 2019 included training by GARE members, and a keynote by Dr. Mira Krishnan, "named one of the Trans100, a recognition of influential transgender Americans", who presented From Ensuring Safety to Building the Community's Future: The Challenge and Opportunities of Building an Ottawa County that Includes and Celebrates Gender and Sexually Diverse Residents. In October, 2020, GARE's Director and Midwest Manager taught Ottawa County's DE&I Department's Diversity Training, titled Advancing Racial Equity, The Role of Government.

In a GovLove Podcast on February 25, 2022, Interim County Administrator, John Shay, noted the corporations involved in the DE&I Department formation were concerned the county's demographics of being over 90% white and largely Conservative would make it difficult to retain the "best and the brightest from other areas of the country and the world," as they may feel less welcome.

In March of 2022, after identifying a desire to hire a new county administrator who was a "champion and advocate for initiatives, programs and strategies that improve racial equity," the Ottawa County Commissioners unanimously voted to hire Shay as the new County Administrator.

ADVANCEMENT OF
OTTAWA'S GARE
MEMBERSHIP

To Local Municipalities

According to GARE's website, GARE is creating a national network of government working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all.

In addition to training its own County employees and the community, **Ottawa County has promoted GARE membership and DEI training to local jurisdictions through GARE Learning Communities of Practice**. Spring Lake Township, the Village of Spring Lake, Grand Haven, the City of Muskegon, Zeeland, Holland, Hudsonville, Allendale, and Coopersville have been reported to be participating. Multiple action steps of engagement with GARE are outlined for communities to move through as part of the GARE Learning Communities of Practice, culminating in their own initiative with GARE.

In May 2021, Robyn Afrik sent the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to all local municipalities (cities, townships, and villages) within Ottawa County requesting their participation working with the County DEI office and other municipalities in what is called the **Learning Communities of Practice (LCoP)**. **This MOU was a non-binding agreement for a municipality to complete six months of DEI pre-work before having to pay a fee to the county (estimated at \$2,000 per participant, not per municipality).**

A proposal obtained via Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) includes Ottawa's Request for Proposal (Exhibit A) and the response from the chosen vendor, Multi-Training Systems, LLC (MTS), to provide facilitator services for 12 months using GARE tools and resources. MTS proposed a **total cost of \$52,500** to provide the requested services. MTS facilitator would be assigned to each municipality that agreed to commit past the pre-work and utilize the GARE framework.

A spreadsheet also obtained via FOIA shows the municipalities that agreed to continue the DEI work, the number of participants involved, and cost paid to county (based on size, potential discounting and non-profit funding):

Grand Haven (2 participants, \$900)
Muskegon (3 participants, \$4,100)
Spring Lake Township (2 participants, \$700)
Spring Lake Village (1 participant, \$250)
Holland (5 participants, \$8,375)
Holland Board of Public Works (3 participants, \$5,025)
Zeeland (1 participant, \$1,575)
Zeeland Board of Public Works (1 participant, \$1,575)

Payments from municipalities totaled \$22,500.

ADVANCEMENT OF OTTAWA'S GARE MEMBERSHIP

The county also received an additional \$10,000 grant from Community Foundation of Holland Zeeland and \$20,000 in a *potential* grant was pending from Grand Haven Community Foundation.

This provided the county the \$52,500 to proceed in contracting with MTS.

Hudsonville, Allendale, Ferrysburg and Coopersville had not signed any MOU for DEI work per Doug Van Essen, Ottawa County Corporation Counsel. At the time of this writing, a BOC vote to approve the RFP and/or contract with MTS was not confirmed.

In addition to promoting GARE membership and teachings to our townships and cities, Robyn Afrik is promoting GARE to counties across the state through the MAC Conference, of which Commissioner Phil Kuyers serves as President. Kuyers also serves on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Counties (NaCo), and Ottawa County's DE&I director, Robyn Afrik, now serves on the National DE&I Directors Network for NACo as well.

DE&I OPENING DOOR TO
**COMPREHENSIVE
SEXUALITY ED**

*Planned Parenthood Aligned
Sex Ed in Schools*

Planned Parenthood has partnered with sexuality activist organizations in creating and advancing Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) for schools.

Advocating under the umbrella of Diversity Equity and Inclusion on LGBTQ/sexuality issues for sex ed is often used to justify approval of CSE curriculum for students, as well as to quiet the voices of parents who may oppose CSE for multiple reasons, including the over sexualization of children, promotion of unhealthy sexual behaviors, and potential exposure to abortion advocacy.

CSE works to change student thinking on youth sexual behaviors and abortion, changing the conversation from sexual risk avoidance and pregnancy prevention to promotion of sexual pleasure, which may lead to an increased risk of students facing an unplanned pregnancy and contemplating an abortion. Children may be taught they can separate from the beliefs of their families and churches and become an ally to others who think differently about the sexuality agenda. Additionally, CSE curriculum promotes the use of resource websites which often include abortion topics and the ability for a student to search for a nearby abortion provider. **In California, CSE has culminated in abortions facilitated at school without parental consent.**

More information on Comprehensive Sexuality Education is available [at alliance114.com](http://alliance114.com), including the important documentary, *No Opt Out Allowed: California Sex Ed*. Michigan governmental, non-profit, and school influences pushing CSE are outlined [here](#), including Ottawa County Health Department's Sexuality Educator, who is on the board of MOASH, and provides support to the push for Comprehensive Sexuality Education with local school districts. MOASH advocates for Comprehensive Sexuality Education, as well as for legislative changes to allow for abortion without parental consent.

MOASH recently released a [K-5 Consent Toolkit from MOASH](#), promoted in the [Whole Child Quarterly](#) put out by Michigan School Health Coordinators' Association (MISCHCA), of which OAISD Consultant Stacey Sills is the treasurer. MOASH and Planned Parenthood are promoted as sexual health resources on page 14 of the toolkit.

Ottawa County's DEI Department Director, Robyn Afrik, now sits on the board of the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District (OAISD). Robyn Afrik was publicly endorsed by Commissioner DeJong to the Allendale School Board for this role, before her opponent dropped out of the race. OAISD consultants promote Comprehensive Sexuality Education to county school districts.

Additional information on Planned Parenthood's push for CSE on a national scale is available through the [Protect Child Health Coalition](#), including [COMPREHENSIVE SEX EDUCATION: THE HARMFUL EFFECTS ON CHILDREN](#).

RACE FORWARD

Actions of Note

Race Forward worked with the Biden Administration on implementing a racial equity executive order on Biden's first day in office, which is now being implemented across federal agencies.

Based on its work with GARE, which has now spread across the US, Race Forward is now speaking into the implementation of similar work in Biden's federal government.

In March of 2022, Race Forward launched a campaign to specifically combat parents defending children against CRT/DEI indoctrination and sexuality issues in schools, identifying Michigan and other swing states as early states to target. (The NEA, leaders of the Women's March, and numerous other well-funded progressive organizations are involved.)

CONCLUSION

*DE&I Department
Ottawa County, Michigan*

CONCLUSION

As Republican leaders and parents nationwide address DE&I/CRT and Planned Parenthood CSE aligned sexualized content in schools, the Ottawa County Commissioners continue to invest \$270K yearly and voice their support for the work of the DEI office, which promotes GARE membership and progressive ideology to our townships and cities, as well as to counties across the state.

While stating it is merely looking to root out elusive implicit bias from county policies, **the Ottawa County DEI Department is giving a foothold to the ideology of the left and membership with progressive GARE through our county bureaucracy.**

Rather than promoting the teaching, policies, and alliance with progressive organizations with ties to abortion and reproductive rights, we ought to look to Conservative minority thought leaders on issues of diversity and inclusion to address true problems with true solutions for all people in our county. Republican and Democrat citizens alike are taking note of the Ottawa County Commissioner's lack of discernment towards and support of the progressive aligned agenda of the DEI Department.

SUPPORTIVE IMAGES

A sampling of additional postings and articles which include abortion and reproductive justice content from Race Forward, Colorlines, and The Othering & Belonging Institute can be found **[HERE](#)** (click on an image to view as a gallery).



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