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California Latinas for Reproductive Justice (CLRJ) Denounces Racist Billboard Campaign Attacking California Latinas' Reproductive Justice

CLRJ Upholds Respect for the Dignity and Autonomy of all Women

Los Angeles--- California Latinas for Reproductive Justice (CLRJ) denounces the racist and heinous billboard messages slated for California, which use Latinas' wombs as a political battleground to attack our health and dignity. Latinas, like all women, can make the best decisions for themselves, their families and communities.

The problem in our communities is not abortion. What Latinas/os truly need to thrive is access to quality health care, good paying jobs to support their families, and quality education to provide positive life opportunities. "Despite Latinas experiencing multiple socio-economic disparities, Latinas still have high positive pregnancy and birth outcomes," says Marisol Franco, Director of Policy and Advocacy. "As a matter of fact, one can say a Latina womb is the safest place for a wanted Latino baby. These ads divert attention from Latinas'/os' real everyday concerns and thwart efforts to eradicate persistent systemic inequities."

Apart from being deceptive, these ads invite the justification for attacks on the broader Latina/o community. "We are already living the anti-woman, anti-immigrant, anti-worker reality," says Gabriela Valle, Senior Director of Community Education. "And these ads create a place for hate mongers to hide behind." We know Latinas are the heart of their communities. Undermining Latinas' health decisions undermines every Latina's overall decision-making for herself and her family.

Moreover, these ads are a repeat of attacks on Black women throughout the country. This current targeting of Latinas is no more than another manipulative tactic to divide communities of color into disregarding all women. CLRJ stands with Trust Black Women members around the country in demanding that these malicious billboards be removed.

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California Latinas for Reproductive Justice is the leading California-based policy advocacy organization whose mission is to advance California Latinas' reproductive health and rights within a social justice and human rights framework. CLRJ works to ensure that policy developments are reflective of the priority needs of Latinas, their families and their communities.