The prohibition on prisoners' access to abortion services in federal prison facilities contained in this bill does not make it impossible for women in prison to obtain an abortion—but it deliberately makes it more expensive, more difficult and less private.

In my view, the only reason the ban does not go further—ban abortion outright—is because Americans support a woman's right to choose. I know that many of my colleagues do not, and I respect their views on this issue. I know that these colleagues would vote to overturn the Roe v. Wade decision immediately, if they thought they could get away with it.

But they don’t go that far, because Americans wouldn’t let them get away with it.

Instead, those who oppose a woman’s right to choose take every opportunity to make the decision ever more difficult, dangerous, and expensive.

I support the DeGette amendment because I believe that’s the wrong approach. If we agree that there should be less abortion, we can and should work together to make the decision to terminate a pregnancy less necessary.

What could we do to make the need for terminating a pregnancy less necessary? We could do more to promote contraceptive access and use. We could work harder to educate people about taking responsibility for protecting themselves from unintended pregnancy. We could do more to prevent sexual assault, rape and incest. We could work together—as our constituents clearly would like us to do—to ensure that most women never need to make the personal decision about terminating their pregnancy.

Less necessary—not more harassing and less private.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the DeGette motion to strike.