

INTEGRATING DISABILITY JUSTICE INTO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE COUNSELING AND ADVOCACY



Society for
Maternal•Fetal
Medicine



04

Better Advocacy

Learning Objective: How to center disabled people in advocacy around high-risk pregnancies. Answer:

What does better advocacy look like? How can you raise awareness and challenge ableism in reproductive health? Why are representation and collaboration important?

Better Advocacy

Advocating for abortion access while centering disability justice is a crucial step towards creating a more equitable and accessible society.

- To be an effective advocate, it's essential to first educate oneself on the diverse experiences and challenges faced by disabled people.
- In addition to these materials, advocates can attend workshops, read literature, and engage with disabled individuals to gain a deeper insight into their perspectives.

Knowledge is the foundation for informed advocacy.



The effects of people using their voices



Promoting accessible design in the reproductive healthcare setting.



Encouraging inclusive policies in workplaces and educational institutions.



Speaking up about ableist language when advocating for abortion access later in pregnancy in cases of fetal impairments.

Representation



Advocacy also extends to fostering representation - supporting and amplifying the voices of people with disabilities in reproductive health spaces.



Ask yourself, who has a seat at the table and how can you make space for disabled people in decision-making?

Representation & Advocacy

It is also important to **acknowledge disability** in contexts where ableism occurs. For example, In reproductive and maternal health, we often discuss high-risk patients and pregnancies without acknowledging that many patients who are considered high-risk may be disabled. Pregnancy itself can be disabling for many people, but people with existing disabilities may be faced with a pregnancy as a further disabling event.

Being cognizant of biases informed by ableism- such as assumptions on how a pregnant person may feel about any particular fetal diagnosis a clear avenue to **center the bodily autonomy of people with medically complex pregnancies.**



Collaboration

Collaboration is a key element in the fight for disability justice. Advocates can build alliances with disability rights organizations, community groups, and other social justice movements.



Collaboration & Advocacy

- Working together strengthens the collective impact and helps to create a more inclusive environment.
- This collaboration can involve joint initiatives, shared resources, and mutual support.
- By standing in solidarity with one another, advocates can address systemic issues and promote a more intersectional approach to justice.

