



CHARITY WATCHLIST

National Down Syndrome Society



ABORTION

- Planned Parenthood Great Rivers Action posted a [“fact sheet”](#) on its website regarding Missouri’s 2017 SB 96 bill, which would have made abortion illegal in cases of prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome. PPGR mentions NDSS and states that it also does not support this bill:

This abortion ban won’t make Missouri a better place for people with Down syndrome. . . . This policy is not supported by the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS). Organizations like NDSS focus on educating women and their families about Down syndrome when they undergo prenatal genetic testing. This bill does not do that.

- A [2021 NC Health News article](#) regarding North Carolina’s proposed HB 453 bill—which would have outlawed abortion if parents received a prenatal Down syndrome diagnosis for their preborn child—quotes NDSS’s statement on abortion and prenatal testing:

The National Down Syndrome Society has also waded into the deep end of the debate with statements on its website in support of prenatal screening to allow “for advanced awareness, adoption or pregnancy termination considerations...Whether or not to undergo a prenatal screening or diagnostic test is a personal decision, and expectant parents must make the choice that is best for them.”

- The National Down Syndrome Society has not responded to the Charity Watchlist regarding its abortion statements.

CONTRACEPTION

- NDSS [recommends contraception](#), safe sex practices, and educational resources about sexual orientation for those with Down syndrome:
 - *If your loved one would like to prevent pregnancy, contraceptive options like condoms or birth control are available. If you and your loved one are interested in learning more about contraceptive options, please talk with your clinician and refer to the [Women’s Health & Down Syndrome](#) webpage.*
 - *The best way to protect against STIs is by using condoms or barriers like dental dams. Please see the resources below for some materials on how to use condoms, which can be shared with your loved one with Down syndrome.*
 - *Some ways you can support your loved one explore their sexual rights and social relationships include: Using educational resources to help them make informed decisions about safe sex practices, sexual orientation, and relationships.*

National Down Syndrome Society

ndss.org

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Mission

Create a world where individuals with Down syndrome thrive.

Focus

Down syndrome, healthcare access

Charity Watchlist Rating: RED
unworthy of support