While politics and media like to divide the world into neat bundles of opposites — pro-abortion vs. pro-life, pro-choice vs. anti-choice — the reality of women’s lives often do not fit these simplistic and divisive labels. We can disagree on many things, but we believe it is time to recognize common threats and celebrate common threads that will ensure the humanity, dignity and well-being of pregnant and birthing women and their families.

Who should attend the Summit? Doulas, midwives, physicians, nurses and other reproductive health care providers, birthing rights activists, reproductive and social justice activists, and all who are committed to the health and humanity of pregnant women, their families and communities.

More information: www.advocatesforwomen.org
Register on-line: www.regonline.com/NAPWSummit2007 • Request paper registration: 347.427.9255
Today’s highly politicized and polarizing abortion debate creates the false and destructive illusion that there are two kinds of women — women who have abortions and women who have babies. The reality is that they are all the same women:

• By age 25, approximately half of all women in the United States have experienced at least one birth.
• By age 44, this figure is approximately 85%.
• Sixty-one percent of women having abortions already are mothers, raising one or more children.
• A majority of those having abortions, but not yet raising children will someday become mothers and spend much of their lives raising and caring for their children and other loved ones.

Today, all women are facing increasing limitations on access to care as a result of conflicts with professional organizations, imposition of religious directives in health care institutions, anti-abortion/fetal rights laws and rhetoric that also affect women continuing to term, and issues concerning health care financing.

The Summit’s goal is to bring people together who are committed to ensuring the health and humanity of all pregnant women — regardless of what their decisions may be — and recognizing that there are strong and diverse opinions about both abortion and about how best to birth a child.

This Summit recognizes that while much attention is paid to efforts to control women who are seeking to end unwanted pregnancies, women with wanted pregnancies are facing a wide array of civil and human rights violations. Examples of these violations include pregnant women who have been shamed or forced into having unnecessary c-sections and the application of punitive criminal and civil child welfare laws to women who are continuing to term.

This Summit will address barriers to care for all pregnant and birthing women as well as strategies for change. It will also address the fact that regardless of their views on the abortion controversy, pregnant women are increasingly confronting discriminating employment, environmental, health insurance and drug policies, among others, which threaten their health and well-being as well as their children’s and families’.

Summit speakers will address the fact that pregnant women across party lines and of diverse experiences, faiths and backgrounds continue to face domestic violence and discrimination based on race, class, age, language, ability and identity. And, the presenters will address the fact that, once parents, women face a host of policies that undermine their ability to provide for their loved ones.

This ground-breaking event will honor differences of opinion but at the same time recognize common threats and CELEBRATE common threads that will ensure the humanity, dignity and well-being of pregnant and birthing women and their families.