SOCIAL ACTION INITIATIVE

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As the chairs of our Social Action Initiative, Tammy and I are committed to advocating for action within NCJW. We plan to follow the initiatives that have been brought forward and work to represent NCJW through actions that support our mission.

We had our first meeting to move in this direction. We met with Jodi Liggett, Deputy Chief of Staff to Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego; Athena Salman, Arizona House of Representatives District 26; and Allie Bones, Assistant Secretary of State to discuss some initiatives that will work towards moving women's reproductive rights forward. We are working to repeal current laws that are detrimental to women's health and well-being, especially around contraception and abortion. To establish a Rape Crisis Center in AZ. This is an initiative that has been brought forth by many other organizations over the years but didn't come to fruition. We also discussed the 19th Amendment events that will be happening around the state and particularly in Phoenix leading up to the 100th year of women getting the right to vote. All of these will support our mission and goals.

At our September meeting we will bring you information about several initiatives that involve committees working on the ERA, Asylum Seekers and Immigration Reform, Reproductive Rights including sexual abuse, sex trafficking and the rape crisis center. And working in conjunction with our State Policy Advocate, Carol Consalvo, on Legislation, Get Out the Vote, and Town Halls.

This will take all our members participating in whatever way they can to bring visibility to NCJW and to be sure women's rights are in the forefront of our legislators and the community at large to improve upon our lives and those of our families.

We are all in this together and together we can make a difference!

OPINION by Tammy Caputi

Women do need constitutional protections and guarantees