

## Anti-abortion billboard stirs controversy in community

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OAKLAND, CA (KTVU/CNN) – An anti-abortion billboard aimed at African-American women is creating a stir in Oakland, CA.

Across the street from the West Oakland Bart Station, there's a billboard with a picture of an infant profile, the title reads, "Black is Beautiful."

Walter Hoyer III is the man behind the billboards and is the founder of an Oakland-based non-profit group called issues for life foundation.

"I'm looking to raise awareness and I'm looking to create an environment for dialogue," Hoyer said.

Since the billboards are in Congresswoman Barbara Lee's district, she's not happy about them.

"They stigmatize African-American women, they're not a positive message," Lee said. "All women should have a right to make their own decisions without anyone interfering with those personal decisions."

Billboard supporters are firing back, defending the anti-abortion billboard.

"What about saying our children are black and beautiful is an attack on black women," asked Catherine Davis, with the Black Pro-Life Coalition.

The group says the message is directed towards African-American women on purpose, because according to CDC data they have higher abortion rates than women of other races.

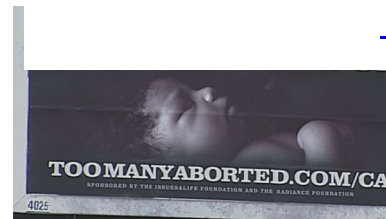
"We should be able to look at this issue without getting caught up in the rhetoric of pro-choice and all the other nonsense," Davis said. "Something is wrong and we are sounding the alarm."

Some West Oakland residents interpret the message differently.

"I think that's an attack on black communities and reproductive rights, especially for women of color," said Jenece Jackson. "So I think that billboard needs to come down."

The "Issues for Life Foundation" says the billboards will stay up until July 10.

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An anti-abortion billboard with a picture of an infant profile is creating controversy in a community. (Source: KTVU/CNN)



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