



# ADVOCACY IN ACTION

ADVOCATING CHANGE = ADVANCING LIVES

## Take Action in the Final Week of the Missouri Legislative Session

**We have reached the final week of the 2024 Missouri legislative session. Although this session has been fraught with infighting concerning the budget and passing the Federal Reimbursement Allowance (FRA), our eyes are now on two crucial pieces of legislation. Please take action below.**



NCJW  
**ACTION**  
**ALERT**

An omnibus bill that would improve Missourians' health and wellbeing is advancing in the Senate and needs just two more votes before it heads to the Governor's desk. We need you to urge lawmakers to vote **YES** on [HB 2413](#) (Peters) today and get the bill across the finish line.

Being referred to as the "women's health" bill, HB 2413 would

- treat and prevent disease
- **increase access to contraception**, and
- make sure survivors of sexual assault can be properly cared for at healthcare facilities.

This bill has received bipartisan support throughout the legislative process. Tell your Senator to vote **YES** today!

Please [click here](#) or call [573-751-3222](tel:573-751-3222) to urge Governor Parson to veto HB 2634 and protect Missouri's healthcare safety net today.

On April 25, the Missouri House passed [SJR 74](#), a bill that would end majority rule. SJR 74 will now be put to a vote in the senate and if approved, will be put on the ballot for voters to decide on.

The initiative petition process allows citizens to propose laws or amendments on the ballot by gathering hundreds of thousands of signatures around the state. The law is enacted by a majority of voters in a general election. The process is over 100 years old and is meant to give citizens a voice, even when politicians aren't hearing us.

**PROTECT THE INITIATIVE  
PETITION PROCESS**

Citizen-led initiatives (like the abortion IP) improve the quality of life for many people in our state and allow us to make laws that reflect the will of Missouri voters. The legislature should follow the will of the people and protect majority rule instead of attempting to grab power by limiting our ability to make decisions for ourselves.

Please [click here](#) to urge your state senator to protect the initiative petition process.

## THIS WEEK! May Lunch and Learn - Women's Economic Equality with Ana Hernandez Kent



Thursday, May 16, 2024  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CT

Ana Hernandez Kent

**When:** Thursday, May 16 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM

**Where:** Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

We are all familiar with the gender pay gap. Women overall make 84 cents to a man's dollar. It's a big problem. But actually ... it's only part of the problem. The lesser-known gender gap is the gender wealth gap. Not how much women make compared to men, but how much they own and keep. What can we do about both?

For our May Lunch and Learn, we are excited to welcome Ana Hernandez Kent, who will help us explore wealth inequality and the role of systemic biases and historical factors in facilitating or blocking wealth accumulation.

Ana Hernández Kent is a senior researcher for the Institute for Economic Equity at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. She conducts research, performs data analysis and advises on issues of economic equity. She received a Ph.D. in experimental psychology with concentrations in social psychology and quantitative methods in behavioral sciences from Saint Louis University. Her work has been featured in The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, USA Today, Bloomberg, The Atlantic, The Financial Times, Daily Mail, The New Yorker and CNN, among other outlets.

**Please [click here](#) to register for the May Lunch & Learn. Questions? Email Jen Bernstein at [jbernstein@ncjwstl.org](mailto:jbernstein@ncjwstl.org) or call 314.993.5181.**

## Tell Your Senators to Confirm Fair, Independent, Diverse and Qualified Judicial Nominees

While the Supreme Court makes the headlines, our district and circuit courts make the final call in over ninety-nine percent of federal cases. Over 400,000 cases are filed each year in our federal district and circuit courts, and these cases affect countless people every day. Federal judges who serve in lifetime appointments must be fair, independent, and qualified with a commitment to constitutional rights for everyone.



President Biden's current nominees would bring much-needed diversity and experience to the federal bench.

NCJW believes in a federal judiciary that is of and for the people.

Please [click here](#) to urge your senators and tell them to confirm fair, independent, diverse, and qualified judicial nominees.

## Urge your Members of Congress to Co-Sponsor the Do No Harm Act!



Religious freedom is a shield that protects us all, not a sword to harm other people. But now, many are misusing a federal law that was designed to protect religious freedom –the [Religious Freedom Restoration Act \(RFRA\)](#) – to claim a right to deny access to health care, jobs, and government-funded services, and to discriminate against LGBTQ people, women, religious minorities and nonreligious people.

The [Do No Harm Act](#) is simple: It's designed to restore RFRA to its original intent. It preserves RFRA's power to protect religious freedom, while also clarifying that it may not be used to harm others.

Our country is strongest when we are all free to live as ourselves and believe as we choose, as long as we don't harm others. The Do No Harm Act will help ensure that our laws are a shield to protect religious freedom and not used as a sword to harm women, LGBTQ+ people, religious minorities, the nonreligious and others by undermining civil rights laws and denying access to health care.

Please [click here](#) to contact your Members of Congress and urge them to co-sponsor the Do No Harm Act.

## ADD YOUR NAME and Help Us Oppose Censorship of Our Public Libraries

For those who have already joined, thank you!

**To protect libraries throughout Missouri, including those at public schools, NCJWSTL has helped convene a statewide coalition of individuals and organizations called Right to Read.** The coalition will oppose any legislative, state policy or other effort to restrict access to materials at public libraries; the coalition has the utmost confidence in trained, experienced librarians and educators to evaluate and select materials in the libraries' collection.



Did you know?

- As a result of a Missouri law enacted in August 2022 restricting some types of materials in public schools, **librarians fearful of criminal prosecution have removed nearly 300 titles** from school library shelves.
- Under an administrative rule imposed by Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, all public libraries must have submitted by July 31 how they will comply with the vaguely written rule. **Failure to comply could result in loss of state funding**, which comprises a significant portion of small libraries' budgets.
- Missouri is among the nation's top book banning states, **especially regarding restricting access to books about gender, sexuality and race in public schools.**

More attempts will likely be made in the 2024 Missouri legislative session to suppress

First Amendment rights. Free and open access to materials at our public libraries is an essential aspect of our democracy.

Please [click here](#) to add your name as an individual member of the coalition. For more information, please e-mail the coalition at [righttoreadcoalition@gmail.com](mailto:righttoreadcoalition@gmail.com).

## Get FREE Emergency Contraception at NCJWSTL!



NCJWSTL is thrilled to announce that we have partnered with the [Missouri Family Health Council](#) (MFHC) to distribute **FREE emergency contraception kits!** This effort is vitally important in the wake of last year's Supreme Court decision overturning Roe vs. Wade, especially in states like Missouri where abortion is illegal. Everyone should have the right to determine when and if they wish to start a family, and emergency contraception is vital in preventing unwanted pregnancies.

Also known as the morning-after pill, or by the brand name Plan B, the emergency contraception pill is an over-the-counter form of birth control that can be taken up to five days after unprotected sex to avoid pregnancy. The goal of this effort is to reduce geographic and financial barriers Missourians face in accessing emergency contraception pills.

While supplies last, MFHC, NCJWSTL and other partner organizations are offering free EC kits to anyone of any age. **Feel free to stop by the NCJWSTL office to pick up your kit - for you or a loved one.**

If you have any questions, please contact Jen Bernstein at [jbernstein@ncjwstl.org](mailto:jbernstein@ncjwstl.org). You can also order an emergency contraception kit by mail by [clicking here](#).

## Take Action & Join the A-List

**Now more than ever you will want to make sure that your name is on NCJWSTL's A-List for 2023!** Join us as we stand together and speak out about the issues that matter most.

*Together we can make a difference!*

A-List sponsorship ads sustain our collaborative efforts to educate the community and elected officials about issues integral to our mission, such as birth control access and voting rights. The full-page ads will run in the St. Louis Jewish Light during 2023.

- **\$18 includes your name in the ad.**
- **\$54 makes you an Advocate Plus with your name in bold.**
- **\$72 makes you a sponsor with your name distinguished in color.**

[Click here](#) to see the A-List flyer.

[Click here](#) to see the latest A-List Ad.

Join the A-list [here](#).



## Interesting Reading

Missouri's Planned Parenthood clinics say they will continue serving patients on Medicaid, even after Gov. Mike Parson signed legislation last week blocking state and federal funds from going to the organization.

The new law, which goes into effect Aug. 28, is the third attempt to end Medicaid reimbursements to any health



centers affiliated with abortion providers.

Despite this, Planned Parenthood announced Thursday its clinics will remain "open to all."

[Click here](#) to read Anna Spoerre's article from *The Missouri Independent*, "Missouri Planned Parenthood Clinics Remain 'Open to All' Despite New Medicaid Restrictions."

---

**Not yet a member of NCJWSTL? [Click here](#) to become part of a growing network of courageous and compassionate individuals who improve the lives of women, children, and families every day. You don't have to be a woman or Jewish to join!**

**Donate to Support NCJWSTL &  
Transform Our Community**



Share This Email



Share This Email

**NCJWSTL**

National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis



Share This Email



**2019 WINNER**  
**BBB TORCH Award**  
*Celebrating Exceptional  
Ethics and Service*  
BBB Serving Eastern & Southwest Missouri &  
Southern Illinois



NCJWSTL | 295 N. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63141

[Unsubscribe ealper@ncjwstl.org](mailto:unsubscribe_ealper@ncjwstl.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [ellen@ncjwstl.ccsend.com](mailto:ellen@ncjwstl.ccsend.com) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!