



**ADVOCACY
IN ACTION**

ADVOCATING CHANGE = ADVANCING LIVES

ACT NOW to Help Save Medicaid Expansion

The people of Missouri already made a decision on Medicaid expansion, but now our state legislature is trying to undo everything we worked for.

We need you to contact your representative and tell them to protect Medicaid expansion.

The Missouri House of Representatives is considering [HJR 117](#), a bill that would effectively repeal the voters' decision to expand Medicaid.

If HJR 117 passes, it will place a measure on the ballot for voters to consider that would allow the legislature to determine whether or not to fund expanded Medicaid and place work reporting requirements on the expansion population. These busy work requirements are notorious for creating bureaucratic barriers and causing Medicaid recipients to lose their health care.

Expanded Medicaid is a life-saving program that has already helped more than 60,000 Missourians access the health care they need to lead healthy lives. We have to do everything we can to make sure these households maintain their coverage.

Please [click here](#) to tell your legislator to honor our votes and protect Medicaid expansion by voting NO on HJR 117.



Not the Patriarchy's Purim: A Feminist Celebration



When: Tuesday, March 15 | 6:30 PM CT

Where: Zoom Meeting

[RSVP Here](#)

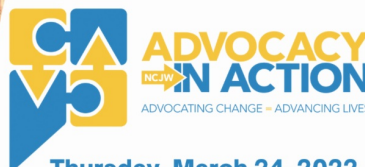
NCJW's national office is back again in 2022 for another feminist reclamation of the Purim story! As we all know, in the Purim story most of us were taught about Queen Vashti and Queen Esther too often focus on their beauty, dismiss their strength, and limit their agency. Last year, we came together to recognize Queen Vashti's brave disobedience and Queen Esther's intentional and courageous decisions and bold actions. **We are excited to look closely again this year.**

We'll reconnect with our feminist commentators, including NCJW CEO Sheila Katz and NCJW Scholar in Residence, Danya Ruttenberg, along with advocates from across the country, for a feminist Purim celebration!

Sign up and log on to nosh some Hamatshan (bake your own at home or buy some in advance), celebrate our heroines, and hear our reading and interpretation of the Megillah.

Please [click here](#) to register for what should be a fabulous event!

March Lunch & Learn: Threats to the Initiative Petition Process with Ashton Kuehnel



Thursday, March 24, 2022
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CT

Ashton Kuehnel

When: Thursday, March 24 (note 4th Thursday) | 12:00 – 1:00 PM CT

Where: Zoom Meeting

[RSVP Here](#)

Missouri's initiative petition system has been in place for 115 years and allows citizens to put an issue on the ballot for a statewide vote. This critical tool, used through the years by citizens from all political persuasions is now under attack by lawmakers who want to curtail the people's power.

The legislature is currently proposing 20 or so different bills that would make it harder to get an issue on the ballot and increase the threshold for an initiated measure to pass once on the ballot. For some perspective, a large majority of voters recently approved a higher minimum wage, Medicaid expansion, and medical marijuana through the initiative petition process. Under the proposed new threshold, each would have failed.

For our March Lunch and Learn, NCJWSTL is excited to welcome Ashton Kuehnel, who will present on why this is happening and what we can do about it. Ashton is a Grassroots Organizer with the Sierra Club, Missouri Chapter. In her role Ashton has organized around Medicaid Expansion, a just transition to clean, renewable energy and voting protections. She lives in St. Louis City and is a Saint Louis University alum.

Please [click here](#) to RSVP and receive your login information. If you have any questions, please contact Jen Bernstein at jbernstein@ncjwstl.org.

Urge Your Legislators to Prioritize Contraceptive Equity



If 2021 taught us anything, it's that **birth control is not a bargaining chip** – Missouri residents across the political spectrum strongly support greater access to contraception. **That's why we're going on the offense this session.**

According to a new public opinion poll conducted by *The Right Time Initiative*, **76% of Missourians believe the state legislature should increase access to birth control.**

[We must let our lawmakers know that we are in the 76%.](#)

We are asking our elected officials to pass the following legislation:

- Annual-Supply Birth Control (an NCJWSTL bill)
- Pharmacist-Dispensing of Birth Control
- The Compassionate Assistance for Rape Emergencies (CARE) Act

When signed into law, these bills will significantly increase access to contraception, improving health equity and reproductive health outcomes.

[Click here](#) to sign the petition urging your legislators to prioritize contraceptive equity this session.

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 2022!

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. The full-page ads will run in the St. Louis Jewish Light during 2022.



- **\$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 and includes a special gift.

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

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

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

Interesting Reading - Black History Month



As we consider the 49th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the threats to Black women's rights—from the ballot box to bodies—are grave. Georgia has taken center stage in both the fight for voting rights and reproductive rights. We cannot look at these vital civil rights fights as separate crusades, rather we must see them as intertwined paths to justice.

[Click here](#) to read Malika Redmond's article from Essence Magazine, "For Black Women, The Fights For Roe v. Wade And Voting Rights Are Inextricable."

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