



**ADVOCACY
IN ACTION**

ADVOCATING CHANGE = ADVANCING LIVES

THIS WEEK! April Lunch & Learn: Crime Victim & Child Abuse Prevention Advocacy with Jeff Dion



**Thursday, April 21, 2022
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CT**

Jeff Dion

When: Thursday, April 21 | 12:00 – 1:00 PM CT

Where: Zoom Meeting

[RSVP Here](#)

April is designated as Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month, both nationally and in Missouri. It is a month to highlight and make an extra effort to create awareness about the importance of strengthening families and preventing child abuse and neglect. As one of the founders of the Child Abuse Prevention Program at JFS, NCJWSTL is proud to amplify this vital issue.

For our April Lunch and Learn, we are excited to welcome Jeff Dion of the Zero Abuse Project. Jeff is an attorney, survivor, and nationally recognized victim advocate. He comes to the Zero Abuse Project after more than twenty years with the National Center for Victims of Crime, where he served as Director of the National Crime Victim Bar Association. He has led efforts to reform civil statutes of limitation to expand access to justice for victims of child sex abuse.

From 2002 to 2010, Jeff served as a gubernatorial appointee to the Virginia Criminal Justice Services Board, where he chaired the Victim Services Advisory Committee. He

has received numerous awards including the 2006 Ronald Wilson Reagan Public Policy Award presented by the U.S. Department of Justice for outstanding innovation and commitment to crime victim legislation. He earned his undergraduate and a law degree from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, and an Executive Certificate in Nonprofit Management from Georgetown University.

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

Help Protect Trans Youth

The logo for 'Protect Trans Kids' features the words 'PROTECT', 'TRANS', and 'KIDS' stacked vertically in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The text is centered within a rectangular background that is divided into three horizontal bands of color: light blue at the top, pink in the middle, and light blue at the bottom.

Last week, the House General Laws Committee voted to pass the transgender youth athlete ban bills out of committee. [HB 2197](#), which sought to ban transgender girls from participating on girls' sports teams in public school athletics, was substituted by an incredibly mean-spirited bill that passed in its place. This new bill allows all youth to participate on sports teams according to the gender they know themselves to be up UNTIL postseason competition.

Transgender youth deserve the opportunity to play the sports they love and experience the valuable lessons of being on a team with their peers — teamwork, discipline, success, and failure.

Excluding transgender children from normal school activities fuels a culture of bias that puts kids in danger. Failing to support transgender student-athletes only perpetuates a culture of bias.

Remind Missouri lawmakers that sports are for **everyone** and that we play together for the love of the game and the love of the team.

Please [click here](#) to tell your lawmakers that you **OPPOSE** banning trans kids from playing sports!

Lobby Day to Save the Citizen Initiative Petition Process

When: Tuesday, May 3 | 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM CT

Where: First Floor Rotunda at the State Capitol

[Register Here](#)

Please join with advocates from across the state to participate in a Lobby Day in Jefferson City to Save the Citizen Initiative Petition process.

In recent years, Missouri voters have collectively proposed and passed policies that have raised the minimum wage, legalized medical marijuana, and expanded eligibility for healthcare to 300,000 Missourians - all through the initiative petition process.

Unfortunately, this important democratic tool is currently under attack.

We are mobilizing in full force to show that we oppose any changes to our citizen Initiative Petition process before the end of the legislative session. Won't you join us?

Please [click here](#) to register. If you would like to join us and need transportation, please contact Jen Bernstein at jbernstein@ncjwstl.org.



Tell Your State Senator: Protect our Public Schools! Vote NO on HB 1552 and SB 869



No matter what we look like, where we come from, or what's in our wallets, all Missourians want our kids to get the best education possible.

But today, certain politicians fuel divisions so they can take resources away from our schools while they let the wealthiest few get away with not paying their fair share. They then blame parents, teachers, and students to distract from these failures.

Missouri ranks 49th in the nation in state support for public schools. Now is not the time to further siphon off that limited support and give it to unaccountable charter schools.

Instead of cutting the already insufficient level of support for students, let's fully fund our classrooms and protect a local school system that works for our children and their teachers, not for special interests.

Please [click here](#) to tell your senator to vote **NO** on **HB 1552** and **SB 869**.

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



The most recent data made public by the National Center for Education Statistics, drawing on surveys conducted in the 2017-18 school year, found that 18% — or about 600,000 — public school teachers in the U.S. held second jobs outside the school system during the school year. This makes teachers about three times as likely as all U.S. workers to juggle multiple jobs at once. **Why are we failing our teachers?**

[Click here](#) to read Emily Tate's article from Mother Jones, "We All Know Teachers Are Underpaid. But Who Imagined It Was This Bad?"

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