



ADVOCACY IN ACTION

ADVOCATING CHANGE = ADVANCING LIVES

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!

Help Assemble Free Emergency Contraception Kits with NCJWSTL and Temple Israel

When: Thursday, August 24 | 7:00 - 8:00 PM CT

Where: Temple Israel | 1 Rabbi Alvin D. Rubin Drive

[RSVP Here](#)

NCJWSTL's longtime coalition partner, the Missouri Family Health Council (MFHC), is partnering with organizations and business to increase access to emergency contraception (EC) by distributing Free EC kits across Missouri. In fact, NCJWSTL has distributed almost 100 kits since the project began a couple of months ago! These individually-packaged kits contain two doses of levonorgestrel emergency contraception (an over-the-counter medication sometimes called "Plan B" or "the morning-after pill"), safer sex supplies (like condoms), and sexual health education and consent resources.



We are excited to partner with Temple Israel on July 24th at 7:00 PM to assemble Free EC kits that will be distributed across Missouri. Your support and help will allow MFHC to increase access to these needed items for anyone who might need them.

The event is open to the community, but registration is required. Please [click here](#) to register.

Tell Congress to Pass the Reproductive Healthcare Accessibility Act



Last week, the [Reproductive Health Care Accessibility Act](#) was introduced. This legislation would eliminate barriers and strengthen access to reproductive health care for people with disabilities. For many people with disabilities, access to reproductive health care is significantly hindered by structural barriers such as discrimination, physical and financial barriers, and a lack of inclusion of people with disabilities in the healthcare workforce. People with

disabilities are less likely to receive contraception counseling, timely prenatal care, and

are at a greater risk for adverse pregnancy outcomes.

Specifically, the Reproductive Health Care Accessibility Act would:

- Provide grants for training programs for existing reproductive health care professionals for people with disabilities, and grants for sexual and reproductive health educational programs for people with disabilities;
- Fund educational and training programs to recruit and train people with disabilities for the health care workforce;
- Establish a new technical assistance center to provide recommendations and best practices regarding sexual and reproductive health care for people with disabilities; and
- Direct the Department of Health and Human Services to further study best reproductive health care practices for people with disabilities.

Please [click here](#) to find your member of Congress and urge them to strengthen reproductive rights for people with disabilities.

Tell Congress: Don't Cut Head Start!

Last week, Congress released its [Fiscal Year 2024 bill](#) for the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies. The proposed legislation provides for a cut of nearly \$63.8 billion from 2023 funding, including a reduction of \$4.8 billion from the enacted funding level of the Administration for Children and Families, **and a reduction of \$750 million from Head Start and Early Head Start funding.**

**DON'T MAKE
CUTS TO
HEAD START!**

If passed, the bill will have an immense impact on early childhood education programs—many of which are already struggling with maintaining necessary staffing. Specifically, the proposed cut will result in over 50,000 children losing access to Head Start and Early Head Start programs and it will eliminate in excess of 16,000 jobs. These reductions will have devastating consequences on young children from low-income families and deprive communities of crucial educational services.

Please [click here](#) to tell Congress to protect Head Start!

August Lunch & Learn: Toxic Insurance Practices with Kevin Hawkins from Jobs With Justice



Thursday, August 17, 2023
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CT

Kevin Hawkins

When: Thursday, August 17 | 12:00 – 1:00 PM CT

Where: Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

You buy insurance for one reason – protection. You pay premiums in exchange for the promise that your insurance company will protect you. Insurance companies have built marketing campaigns around one goal – getting customers to trust them to fulfill this promise.

What happens when insurance companies fail to fulfill their promise? To answer this question and speak about toxic insurance practices, we are thrilled to welcome **Kevin Hawkins** from *Missouri Jobs With Justice* for our August Lunch & Learn.

Kevin has more than 20 years of practical experience working throughout the St. Louis region working with many organizations including St. Louis City Department of Health, Washington University, Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region, Places for People, and BJC Behavioral Health. He is a graduate of Ladue High School and Fontbonne University.

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

Tell us What's on Your Mind!

As NCJWSTL focuses on our **mission** to improve the lives of women, children, and families in our community, we need your insights. We are considering launching a new initiative targeted at serving working mothers. This survey is open to all. Please help us understand our community's strengths, areas for improvement, and your experiences with local resources by participating in our brief survey.



Please take the survey [linked here](#) by Tuesday, August 15.

Your valuable input will shape our initiatives and collaborations, and inform potential new efforts.

We know you're time is limited -- the survey will take just 5-10 minutes to complete.

We love hearing and standing beside you to make sure your voice is heard so together we can continue making a difference.

**NCWJSTL New Initiative
Survey**

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.

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



The Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* triggered a cascade of legislation across the country. In 2022 alone, more than 2,400 bills were introduced in state legislatures, according to the Guttmacher Institute.

In a number of states, legislation has been passed to protect those who seek reproductive care within their borders. People often travel for abortion care because their home state has banned or severely restricted access to the procedure. This new legislation represents the first time since the Civil War that states have passed laws saying they won't help with interstate investigations into some criminal charges.

[Click here](#) to read Jeff Fuentes Gleghorn's article from *Teen Vogue*, "Shield Laws for Abortion, Gender-Affirming Care Need Better Protections Against Extradition."

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NCJWSTL | 125

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