



# ADVOCACY IN ACTION

NCJW

ADVOCATING CHANGE = ADVANCING LIVES

## TOMORROW! Medication Abortion at Risk: NCJW Supreme Court Live Watch

**When:** Tuesday, March 26 | 1:00 PM

**Where:** Facebook

[RSVP Here](#)

Please join us LIVE on NCJW's Facebook page tomorrow for a discussion about the Supreme Court oral arguments from a case that could greatly impact the availability of the abortion medication mifepristone.

Mifepristone, coupled with misoprostol, is the most widely-used miscarriage-management and abortion method in the U.S.

We'll unpack what we heard during the oral arguments before the Court and what we can expect based on the answers of the justices. During the live show, Jody Rabhan, NCJW Chief Policy Officer, will guide the conversation with Erinn D. Martin from the National Women's Law Center and Rabbi Kelly Levy from Congregation Beth Israel in Austin, TX to offer context, insight, humor and what might be coming next.

Please [click here](#) to RSVP and feel free to share with your friends, family and organizations!

**LIVE**  
**Medication Abortion at Risk: Supreme Court Watch**  
Tuesday, March 26 at 2 pm ET / 11 am PT on NCJW's Facebook page

**Erinn D. Martin**  
Director of Nominations & Cross-Cutting Policies, National Women's Law Center

**Jody Rabhan**  
Chief Policy Officer, National Council of Jewish Women (Moderator)

**Rabbi Kelly Levy**  
Associate Rabbi, Congregation Beth Israel, Austin, TX

**JEW'S FOR ABORTION ACCESS**  
National Council of Jewish Women

## Show Me Reproductive Freedom: 2024 MO Lobby Day With Planned Parenthood

**When:** Tuesday, April 9 | 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**Where:** Missouri State Capitol Building

[RSVP Here](#)

From banning abortion to attacking majority rule to "defunding" Planned Parenthood, the far-right politicians who dominate our gerrymandered state legislature are actively harming us and our futures. **But we aren't giving up.** We are fighting back and building power to create a Missouri where everyone can thrive. Join us and advocate for the rights of every Missourian to control their bodies, lives, and futures!

**REPRODUCTIVE  
FREEDOM**

Whether this will be your first time in the Capitol or you're a seasoned pro, this lobby day is for you! Our team will support you every step of the way, starting with a virtual training in the days before the event to prepare you with the information you'll need to effectively make your voice heard in Jeff City. We'll also provide transportation, lunch, and lobby teams. There is no need to be a legislative or policy expert — you're already an expert in your own life! Sharing your personal experience is more powerful than any facts and figures.

For more information and to RSVP, please [click here](#).

## Repro Rights Petition Training and Signing Information



Would you like to help gather signatures at events? Our friends at AccessMO have created an extensive [sign-up](#) with some public events in the STL region through the end of April. We have collected a TON of signatures by arriving an hour before event start times, it's an easy opportunity to gather a lot of signatures in a short period of time.

[Click Here to Gather Signatures at Events](#)

Would you like to host a signature gathering house party? We will send trained signature gathering volunteers to your home to speak and gather signatures. You provide the refreshments, we will provide the speaker and petitions!

[Click Here to Host a House Party](#)

- **We also have petitions available to sign at the NCJWSTL office!** Stop by anytime between 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM on Wednesdays and 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM on Fridays to sign.
- If you are collecting signatures and need your sheets notarized, a notary is available at the NCJWSTL office on Mondays and Thursdays between 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM and Wednesdays between 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM.

**[We are required to collect 172,000 valid signatures by May 5th, 2024](#)**, to ensure Missourians get to vote on ending our cruel abortion ban at the ballot. **Help us do our part!**

For more information, contact Jen Bernstein at [jbernstein@ncjwstl.org](mailto:jbernstein@ncjwstl.org).

## Legislation Watch - Take Action Today!

NCJWSTL is closely monitoring the following legislation this week and we are asking you to take action:

## Bills we are advocating FOR this week:



**NCJW  
ACTION  
ALERT**

**HB 1999** - This bill allows school districts to include instruction on LGBTQ contributions to society. Although it has been introduced, it has not yet been assigned to a committee, but you can contact your legislators by [clicking here](#) to urge them to support HB 1999 when it's assigned to a committee.

**HB 2478** - This bill prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Otherwise known as the Missouri Non-Discrimination Act (MONA), NCJWSTL and our coalition partners have been trying to pass this legislation for over 20 years. MONA has not been assigned to a committee yet, but you can contact your legislators by [clicking here](#) to urge them to support HB 2478 if and when it is.

## Below are the bills we are advocating AGAINST this week:

**SJR 74** - NCJWSTL was in Jefferson City last week to testify against this bill, which would require proposed constitutional amendments to receive not just a majority of votes cast statewide (the rule now) but also prevail in a majority of Congressional districts. This measure implies that some votes don't count as much as others. Adding this barrier does nothing more than censure the voice of the people. Please contact your Missouri representative by [clicking here](#) and urge them to vote no on SJR 74, as well as on any measures to change the initiative petition process.

**HB 2498** - This bill requires public libraries that are authorized to levy or collect taxes to be governed by an elected library board. It would be disastrous for public libraries because it would give the board power to select books, make personnel decisions, etc. This bill has been voted out of committee. Please contact your Missouri representative by [clicking here](#) and urge them to vote NO on HB 2498 if and when it comes to the House floor.

\*When you click on this link, it will take you to a list of all House committees. Please scroll down to find the specific committee you are looking for.

To follow all of the bills that NCJWSTL is monitoring during the 2024 Missouri Legislative session, please [click here](#).

## April Lunch and Learn - Issues Impacting Seniors in our Community



Martha Brown



Thursday, April 18, 2024  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CT



Nikki Mitchell

**When:** Thursday, April 18 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM

**Where:** Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

Those entering their golden years have a lot to look forward to, and seniors today are grasping more opportunities than ever before. However, it is important that we look at the multitude of challenges that come with aging to ensure they are appropriately addressed, and the golden years remain golden. These issues become more difficult to deal with as people age, but there are ways we can help seniors through these concerns.

For our April Lunch and Learn, NCJWSTL is thrilled to welcome Martha Brown and Nikki Mitchell of Mitchell, Brown & Associates. Ms. Brown began her career working in Probate matters, including Guardianship cases. As she built her practice, she began working with Medicare and Medicaid matters. By 1994, she had an Elder Law practice, although at the time, she didn't realize what it was! Ms. Mitchell works in all areas of elder law for the firm. She is committed to helping clients in need and guiding them through difficult legal processes with compassion.

While the list of potential concerns facing seniors is endless and can often be daunting in nature, ensuring that this population is well-supported can significantly ease these apprehensions. Ms. Brown and Ms. Mitchell are the perfect speakers to help us tackle these issues.

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

## 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



The basis of the arguments against mifepristone rests on myriad falsehoods, which have already been disproven: Contrary to anti-abortion activists' claims, more than 100 studies have shown that medication abortion—which accounts for more than half of all abortions nationwide, according to the Guttmacher Institute—is safe and effective. That includes a study published in February in the journal *Nature Medicine* that found medication abortion is just as safe when

it's prescribed virtually as it is in person.

[Click here](#) to read Julianne McShane's article from *Mother Jones*, "Anti-Abortion Activists Are Peddling Another Lie About Abortion Pills—And We Debunked It."

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

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