



**ADVOCACY  
IN ACTION**

ADVOCATING CHANGE = ADVANCING LIVES

## Final Week for Signature Collection!



We are in the final stretch! Although the final date for the abortion rights initiative petition effort is May 5th, [Missourians for Constitutional Freedom](#) is asking that all sheets be turned in by Thursday, April 25th.

If you are interested in helping out with any signature collection events this week, please [click here](#) to sign up to volunteer.

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**Please turn in any signed petitions you may be holding onto, even if the sheets are not full!**

- **We still have petitions available to sign at the NCJWSTL office!** Stop by anytime between 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM on Wednesday this week.
- A notary is available at the NCJWSTL office today and Thursday between 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM and Wednesday between 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM this week.

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

## "Show Me Shenanigans" New Episode Has Dropped!

**Gee, bill, you certainly have a lot of patience and courage!**

Our sixth episode has dropped! [Listen in!](#)



Join us and guest Mandy Hagseth, JD, The Missouri Family Health Council's Director of Policy and External Affairs

Mandy discusses the path that Annual Supply Birth Control has taken in this session. We've all heard the [Schoolhouse Rock version of how a bill becomes a law](#), Mandy and Amy discuss how that process works.

We would love to hear your feedback. Please contact Jen Bernstein at [jbernstein@ncjwstl.org](mailto:jbernstein@ncjwstl.org) with your comments.

## Legislation Watch - Take Action Today!

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



NCJW  
**ACTION**  
**ALERT**

### Bills we are advocating FOR this week:

**SB 787** - This act, commonly referred to as the Missouri Non-Discrimination Act (MONA) prohibits discrimination based upon a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. This is something that NCJWSTL has been championing for over 20 years and it was heard last week in the Senate General Laws Committee. Please [click here](#) to contact members of that committee and urge them to vote YES when it comes up for a vote.

**HB 2413** - would improve Missourians' health and wellbeing and could be debated on the House floor at any time. Being referred to as a "women's health" bill, HB 2413 would treat and prevent disease, reduce unintended pregnancies and make sure survivors of sexual assault can be properly cared for at healthcare facilities. Please [click here](#) to urge your representative to vote YES on HB 2413.

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

**SB 1459** - This bill would prohibit gender affirming care from being considered "reproductive health care." The only reason its sponsor filed this bill is because they know the abortion initiative petition is likely to pass, and they need a scare tactic to rally their base against it. NCJWSTL testified against this bill last week. Please contact the members of the Senate Emerging Issues Committee by [clicking here](#) and tell them to vote NO on SB 1459.

**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](#).

## Abortion Access Before the US Supreme Court Again: What Jewish Advocates Need to Know

**Abortion Before the US Supreme Court Again:**  
**What Jewish Advocates Need to Know**

Thursday, May 2 at 2:30pm ET / 11:30am PT

**JEWIS FOR ABORTION ACCESS**  
#JWFORABORTIONACCESS018  
 National Council of Jewish Women

**Hindi Stohl M.D. J.D.**  
 Director of Maternal Fetal Medicine, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center

**Michelle Banker**  
 Director of Reproductive Rights and Health Litigation, National Women's Law Center

**Professor Greer Donley**  
 University of Pittsburgh Law School

**Moderator**  
**Rabbi Joshua R.S. Fielder**  
 Congregation Emanu El, Houston, TX  
 NCJW Rabbis for Repro Advisory Council

**When:** Thursday, May 2 | 1:30 PM  
**Where:** Zoom  
[RSVP Here](#)

As two major cases ([FDA v. Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine](#) and [Idaho v. United States](#)) threatening abortion access across the United States are in front of the Supreme Court, now, more than ever, we must raise our voices loudly, proudly, and Jewishly in support of reproductive freedom!

Join NCJW as we discuss the legal and medical implications of two abortion cases before the US Supreme Court: a case that could significantly curtail access to medication abortion and a case that threatens emergency abortion care. This webinar will dive into what happened during oral arguments, the details of the cases themselves, and the implications of potential rulings.

**These cases threaten what is left of federal abortion access.**

For more information and to register for the webinar, please [click here](#).

## 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.

## 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 emergence 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



One in three women globally will experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, according to a World Health Organization report, and 98.1 percent of the perpetrators are men. The problem with physical and sexual violence is that it has more to do with the perpetrators that skew male than the victims that skew female, but culturally we put emphasis on the victims: women. Even in the WHO report, *men* is mentioned one time, while *women* is mentioned 31 times.

[Click here](#) to read Jodi Bondi Norgaard's article from *The Ms. Magazine*, "'Violence Against Women' Is a 'Male Violence' Problem."

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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**NCJWSTL**  
National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis

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**2019 WINNER**  
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Southern Illinois



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