



ADVOCACY IN ACTION

ADVOCATING CHANGE = ADVANCING LIVES

At NCJWSTL, we are dedicated to tracking these legislative developments closely, focusing on bills that align with our mission of improving the lives of women, children, and families.

Please [click here](#) to view the bills NCJWSTL is following and whether we are in support or in opposition. The list will be continuously updated throughout session.

This Week! Advocacy Series Hot Topics Brunch: Trump's First 90 Days



Sunday, March 30, 2025
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM CT

Sheldon Weisgrau, MHS
VP of Health Policy & Advocacy
Missouri Foundation for Health

When: Sunday, March 30 | 10:00 - 11:30 AM

Where: NCJWSTL Office | 295 North Lindbergh Blvd.

[RSVP Here](#)

In just a couple of months, the Trump administration has come roaring out of the gates with a breathtaking flurry of activity that has raised significant questions about the scope of presidential authority and the balance of power in the federal government.

Join NCJWSTL to nosh and learn more about the first 90 days of Trump's presidency as we bring back our Hot Topics Brunch series. It's the perfect opportunity to dive into meaningful discussions about Trump's executive orders, mass layoffs, freezes on federal grants, the closure of federal agencies, and more.

For this Hot Topics Brunch, we are excited to welcome Sheldon Weisgrau, MHS, the Vice President of Health Policy and Advocacy for the Missouri Foundation for Health, who brings four decades of experience to his position leading the Foundation's health policy, advocacy, and government affairs functions. Bring your appetite for knowledge - this is one event you won't want to miss!

The Hot Topics Brunch is free of charge, but please [click here](#) to register by March 27th.

Sign the Pledge - Recommit to Reproductive Freedom

Hostile lawmakers continue to intensify their attacks on our health care and attempt new strategies to strip away our bodily autonomy and dismantle our personal freedoms. The stakes have never been higher. This is an existential fight and we must meet it with unwavering strength and urgency. Join NCJW and advocates across the country to recommit ourselves to the shared work of fighting for bodily autonomy and reproductive freedom.

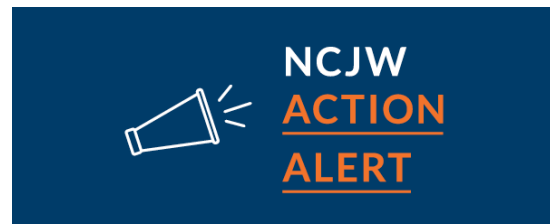


As we build our Jewish vision of a just and compassionate world, we must advance the rights of all people to make their own personal health care decisions and determine for themselves if, when, and how to build a family. This means protecting access to medication abortion, contraception, IVF and fertility care, gender-affirming care, and miscarriage and abortion care.

As a nation committed to religious freedom, we must ensure that everyone has the ability to make their own moral or faith-informed decisions about their bodies and health care.

Please [click here](#) to pledge to be a champion for the fundamental freedoms we all deserve.

Urge the Missouri Legislature to Pass the Bipartisan Women's Health Bill Now!



Great news! HB 398 was voted unanimously out of committee last week. NCJWSTL also testified in support of SB 178 in the Senate. Let's keep the pressure on MOLEG to get it past the finish line this session!

While we know there will be no shortage of attacks on women's health this session, the Missouri legislature also has an opportunity to pass a positive healthcare bill quickly - the Bipartisan Women's Health Bill ([SB 178](#) and [HB 398](#)).

Last year, a critical women's health bill was just one vote from final passage, but despite wide bipartisan support - including from House leadership - the bill failed to pass due to dysfunction in the Senate. Both sides of the aisle strongly support this legislation that would treat and prevent disease, including congenital syphilis; increase access to contraception; and improve Missourians' health and wellbeing.

Please [click here](#) to tell our lawmakers to **prioritize and pass the Bipartisan Women's Health Bill now!**

ADD YOUR NAME and Help Us Oppose Censorship of Our Public Libraries

Protect Missouri's Libraries! Join the Right to Read Coalition by [clicking here](#).

For those who have already joined, thank you!

Check our member list to see who supports us...and if you've already joined by [clicking here](#).

Right to Read is a statewide coalition of 1,000 individuals and nearly 100 organizations. The coalition opposes legislative, state policy or other efforts to restrict access to materials at public and school libraries.



Censorship denies our First Amendment rights to access books that reflect our diverse community:

- Missouri ranked third nationally in 2023 for the number of books banned at school libraries.
- 60% of banned books in the U.S. include characters of color and discussed issues of race and racism or presented LGBTQ+ characters or themes.

Laws and policies enacted recently have led to book bans and harmful regulations on our libraries. **We expect more censorship efforts in Missouri in 2025.**

Add your voice to thousands of Missourians to fight censorship and book bans!

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.

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. 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 ensure that your name is on NCJWSTL's A-List for 2025! 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 2025.

- **\$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 maternal health crisis in the United States is only getting worse—especially in the South. Despite advances in prenatal care, the region continues to face disproportionately high rates of fetal mortality, poor maternal health outcomes, and dwindling access to care. Now, as Congress debates deep cuts to Medicaid, a new analysis of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data underscores just how dire the situation has become.

[Click here](#) to read Amelia Crawford's article from *The Feminist Majority*, "Late-Term Pregnancy Loss Surges in the South Amid Medicaid Cut Proposals."

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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