



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.

Advocacy Series Lunch and Learn: Immigration Updates with Jason Baker, Ph.D.



Thursday, April 17, 2025
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CT

Jason Baker, PhD

When: Thursday, April 17 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM

Where: Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

Immigrants and refugees come to the US seeking better lives for themselves and their families. Yet billions of dollars are being spent to increase immigration law enforcement and raids to detain and deport immigrants — including children — with increasing frequency, tearing families and communities apart in the process.

As NCJWSTL continues to fight back against xenophobic, anti-immigrant, and anti-refugee policies to ensure that our country continues to be a welcoming place, we are thrilled to welcome Jason Baker, Ph.D., the Executive Director of Monarch Immigrant Services to speak at our April Lunch and Learn.

[Monarch Immigrant Services](#) was founded in 2002 by stateless refugee women. Its mission is strengthening immigrant and refugee communities through equitable access to transformative services. Monarch's services are rooted in integrity, responsiveness, collaboration, inclusiveness and joy. They are dedicated to making St. Louis a compassionate, diverse, and strong community where everyone can thrive.

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

Take Action: Demand Equal Pay!

Despite passage of the landmark [1963 Equal Pay Act](#), women today earn only 83 cents for every dollar earned by men — and the gap is much wider for women of color, earning only 64 cents.

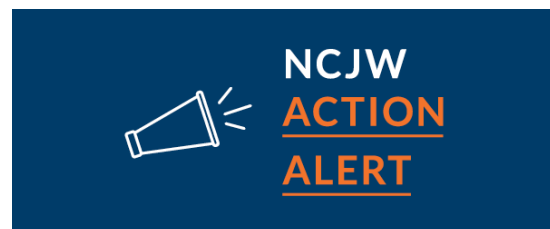
[The Paycheck Fairness Act](#), introduced by Representative Rosa DeLauro and Senator Patty Murray, would deter wage discrimination by updating and strengthening the Equal Pay Act. This critical legislation would provide tools and protections for women to dispute pay discrimination in the workplace, strengthen anti-retaliation protections, require better data reporting, and help facilitate legal recourse for victims of discrimination. With rising inflation and intense economic strain on families, passage of the Paycheck Fairness Act is critical to closing the wage gap and advancing economic justice.



Women, families and our nation cannot afford to wait any longer for equal pay.

Please [click here](#) to urge your members of Congress to cosponsor and support the Paycheck Fairness Act today.

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!

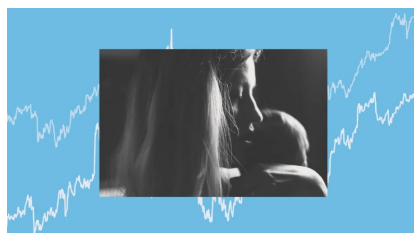
A-List sponsorship ads sustain our collaborative efforts to educate the community and elected officials about issues integral to our mission, such as birth control access and voting rights. The full-page ads will run in the St. Louis Jewish Light during 2025.

- **\$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



Rebecca Fielding-Miller, an associate professor of public health at the University of California, San Diego, was in a faculty meeting Friday discussing how the Trump administration's cuts to funding will affect academic research when she got some unexpected, and unfortunately relevant, news: The National Institutes of Health intended to terminate a grant of approximately \$400,000 for one of her projects. **A lead researcher**

thinks the grant was canceled because the project had "equity" in its title.

[Click here](#) to read Julianne McShane's article from Mother Jones, "Domestic Violence and Maternal Mortality Are Rising. The NIH Just Defunded a Project to Study Both."

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!

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NCJWSTL

National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis



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