



# 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.

## Tell Speaker of the Missouri House, Jon Patterson, to Stop the Attacks on Amendment 3



NCJW  
**ACTION**  
**ALERT**

As the Missouri legislature enters the final five weeks of session, protecting voter-passed Amendment 3 is a top priority. And Speaker of the House, Jon Patterson, is not living up to his promises.

Before the election when asked what the legislature should do if Amendment 3 passes, Patterson said: **“And what I’ve told people is that we should respect the will of the people and we will. It’ll be the law of the land and we have to go forward as the people decide.”**

Now he is letting the same anti-abortion politicians that forced a total ban on Missouri run the show. Their goal is simple, they want to reinstate the ban on abortion and remove the fundamental right to reproductive freedom that Amendment 3 guarantees us, including access to birth control, prenatal care, and miscarriage care.

Please call Speaker Patterson TODAY at [573-751-0907](tel:573-751-0907), tell him to stick to his word and respect the will of the people. Stop the attacks on Amendment 3!

## THIS WEEK! 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, Ph.D.

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

**Where:** Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

Immigrants and refugees come to the U.S. 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](mailto:jbernstein@ncjwstl.org) or call 314.993.5181.**

## THIS WEEK! 2025 Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Forum

Senator Brian Williams and the National Council of Jewish Women present



**2025 HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS AND PREVENTION FORUM**

*"Then when you know better, do better." ~ Maya Angelou*  
*Help us know more and do better at stopping human trafficking.*

**APRIL 17, 2025 • 6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.**

Millennium Student Center, Century Room C - 17  
Arnold B Grobman Dr, St. Louis, MO 63131



**Host:**  
Senator  
Brian Williams

**Speakers:**  
Dr. Shima Rostami  
Keaton Strong

**Moderator:**  
Dr. Marty Casey

Thanks for the generosity and support of our sponsors:



**When:** Thursday, April 17 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM  
**Where:** UMSL Millennium Student Center, Room C-17

NCJWSTL is proud to collaborate with Missouri Senator Brian Williams to present what will be a powerful event focused on raising awareness and prevention of human trafficking. This initiative aims to educate the community about the critical issues surrounding human trafficking, highlight the resources available for victims, and empower individuals to take action. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage with experts in the field, share insights, and contribute to the ongoing dialogue about effective strategies to combat human trafficking in our communities. We hope you can join us!

*There is no cost to attend and no need to register for this event. For more information, please contact Heather Silverman at [hsilverman@ncjwstl.org](mailto:hsilverman@ncjwstl.org).*

## 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](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 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



If congressional Republicans go through with some of the deep Medicaid cuts they are considering, three states would be left in an especially tight bind.

South Dakota, **Missouri** and Oklahoma have state constitutions requiring that they participate in Medicaid expansion, the part of Obamacare that expanded the health program for the poor to millions of adults. They either need to amend their constitutions, a lengthy


process that can take years, or figure out how to fill the budget hole, most likely by cutting other services or raising taxes.

[Click here](#) to read Sarah Kliff and Margot Sanger-Katz's article from the New York Times, "The Three States That Are Especially Stuck if Congress Cuts Medicaid."

**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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