



Reproductive Justice & Abortion Rights

May 2022

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Even before the stunning news earlier this month that the Supreme Court does intend to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, we knew that that reality of reproductive justice was grim in this country. In June 2021 the Guttmacher Institute had <u>reported</u> that 2021 was the worst-ever year for U.S. reproductive rights, as a record-breaking 561 abortion restrictions, including 165 abortion bans, introduced across 47 states (all counts current as of June 7, 2021)—and 90 of them have been enacted into law. "We're really trying to bring attention to the fact that state legislatures are moving very quickly on abortion bans and restrictions," Elizabeth Nash, a co-author of the report and principal policy associate at the institute, <u>told</u> NPR last year. "Abortion rights are at stake." As we feared then and now know, that was true.

Liberty Hill presents the following docket as a place to begin your research on ways to support the many different needs women and nonbinary folks will face in a post-Roe future, and how to fight for rights to be protected and reestablished. Organizations in California are presented here for their work to increase access to reproductive services for communities of color and as a sanctuary state, while organizations in other regions are presented for the critical work, they do to fight for abortion access in states where the right to abortion is most under threat. We present clinics and healthcare agencies doing frontline medical care work, often under great personal threat, as well as advocacy and litigation organizations fighting legal battles.

Please note that Liberty Hill is not able to recommend partisan organizations. All organizations are 501c3 unless otherwise noted; donor-advised fund holders are only able to make gifts through your DAF to 501c3 but 501c4 organizations are also listed here for context and reference.

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California Reproductive Justice Organizations

The California Future of Abortion Council (CA FAB Council)

Council members: Access Reproductive Justice, Black Women for Wellness Action Project, California Latinas for Reproductive Justice, Essential Access Health, NARAL Pro-Choice California, National Health Law Program (NHeLP), Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California, TEACH: Training in Early Abortion for Comprehensive Healthcare and Other members of the California Coalition for Reproductive Freedom

Beginning in 2020, CA abortion providers saw an uptick of out of state patients traveling to California to seek care, a number that will only continue to increase as we see more states enact abortion bans similar to Texas' SB 8. If the Supreme Court overturns *Roe v. Wade*, 26 additional states would likely ban abortions, which would make clinics in California the nearest one for an estimated 1.4 million out of state patients. While the state of California's current and proposed policies would make it a sanctuary state for these patients, it would still create a massive strain on our existing infrastructure. Currently, 40% of the counties within the state that do not have a clinic providing abortions, impacting rural and low-income communities, as well as many communities of color. Additionally, these out of state patients would need practical support of housing, transportation, food, and childcare. In the face of these attacks on reproductive justice, the FAB Council was formed in September of 2021, shortly after the passage of Texas SB 8 to reinforce California's critical role in protecting and expanding access to sexual and reproductive health care, including abortion.

Using initial seed funds, the FAB Council convened seven sub committees in collaboration with researchers, policy makers, providers and patients to identify potential challenges in the state and make policy recommendations to secure our future in sexual and reproductive health. By December 2021, the FAB Council released 45 policy recommendations to protect, strengthen and expand abortion care in California with the hope to strengthen California policies, but also provide a blueprint for other states. This report was the beginning of the FAB Council work, and they are now partnering with state leaders to operationalize the recommendations including establishing funding mechanisms for abortion services so that we can move beyond the right to an abortion, and have equitable access for all. As of May 2022, the FAB Council is seeking an investment of \$500,000 to support council expenses for the next 12 months, including dedicated personnel, producing media collateral and hosting council events including a policy summit and press conferences.

Black Women for Wellness (501c3) and BWW Action Project (501c4)

Black Women for Wellness (BWW) and its sister organization, Black Women for Wellness Action Project (BWWAP) are committed to improving the health status and well-being of Black women and girls. Recognizing that a number of issues impact and determine the well being of Black women and girls, BWW takes an intersectional approach to achieve its mission through innovative programming – environmental justice, access to quality prenatal, maternal, and child health care, voter mobilization, and civic engagement — grounded in reproductive justice principles.

Black Women for Wellness Action Project is the first Black Reproductive Justice 501(c)4 in the United States and the only Reproductive Justice 501(c)4 in California. BWWAP is committed to improving the overall health status and wellbeing of Black Women and Girls and works to achieve this through policy advocacy that advances equity and by building the political and electoral power of Black women throughout California.

In the wake of the global pandemic, BWW issued the <u>Birthing People's Bill of Rights</u> to support pregnant people and parents navigate their birthing experience during COVID. During the 2020 Census, in one of California's largest Black Census outreach campaigns, BWW and BWWAP sent over 100.000 text messages to Black women to complete the census. BWW also published a nonpartisan Vote (Her) Guide focused on Black women's issues including information about judges, ballot measures, and propositions. In 2019, BWW and BWW Action co-wrote the bill and built a coalition of over 100 organizations to help pass the California Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act with the legislature's unanimous support. The first of its kind in the nation, the law aims to improve Black maternal health by requiring that all perinatal providers go through implicit bias training; improving data collection standards; mandating the publication of maternal morbidity data; and requiring hospitals to tell patients how to file discrimination complaints. Since then, BWWAP has successfully co-sponsored and passed statewide legislation to advance maternal health and reproductive freedom, including SB 65, The California Momnibus Act — a comprehensive law that implements innovative interventions to address the widening maternal mortality disparities in California; and SB 245, The Abortion Accessibility Act, which expands access to abortion care in California. BWW and BWWAP continues to work to advance reproductive justice, freedom and equity in California by lending its perspective in leadership roles on the California Future of Abortion Council and Los Angeles County efforts to ensure everyone in the state and county have access to the full spectrum of reproductive and sexual health care.

California Latinas for Reproductive Justice

California Latinas for Reproductive Justice (CLRJ) is a statewide advocacy organization committed to promoting the reproductive and sexual health, rights, and justice of California Latinas/xs through policy advocacy, community organizing and education, and community-informed research. In 2019, CLRJ helped to pass two landmark laws: the historic College Student Right to Access Act that makes medication abortion available on all CA public university and college campuses. And 2021, CLRJ successfully lobbied for the legislature to include \$7.5 million in the state budget to provide reparations to survivors who were forcibly sterilized in state institutions under California's eugenics law from 1909-1979 or who were subjected to coerced or involuntary sterilizations in women's state prisons after 1979. Presently, CLRJ has helped a group of women residents of Bell Gardens calling themselves the *Unión de Vecinas* (union of female neighbors) address the intersectionality of issues going on for them today. For the Unión de Vecinas, reproductive justice is about the community and families being able to raise children safely and with housing stability. Through community demonstrations at city hall, as well as a petition aimed at gathering 1,000 signatures, CLRJ and the Unión de Vecinas are fighting for rent control and just cause eviction laws on behalf of the renters in their community. They are working to create more visibility on the housing crisis in Bell Gardens, both to put political pressure on decisionmakers and also to attract more residents experiencing these issues to join their campaign efforts. Since 2021, CLRJ has been part of the California Future of Abortion Council and is working on policies to increase access and remove barriers to accessing abortion and other reproductive health services.

ACT For Women and Girls

ACT grew out of a listening session hosted by the Women's Foundation of California in Visalia, in February 2003. They began as a grassroots effort to examine the needs of rural communities, and has since grown as a reproductive justice organization building power through leadership development, community organizing, advocacy and policy change for their communities. **ACT is an established youth organizing reproductive justice organization working on issues in the Central Valley, state and nation**. In addition to their youth organizing and leadership development programs (Feminist Leadership Academy, Student Health Awareness for Peer Empowerment, and ACTion Teams to organize on grassroots issues), ACT has an integrated voter engagement project that centers youth voices. Recent campaigns have focused on access to contraceptives, including scoring local pharmacies on their treatment of youth, LGBTQI+ trainings at local high schools, and the elimination of toxic pesticides from their campus while deepening their knowledge of enviro-repro justice.

Impact Litigation

Center for Reproductive Rights

The Center for Reproductive Rights is at the heart of the current urgency to defend *Roe v. Wade*, with Center attorneys in the center of the case in question at the Supreme Court, *Dobbs v. Jackson*. Their critical work on this case is part of their global approach to ensure reproductive rights are protected in law as fundamental human rights for the dignity, equality, health, and well-being of every person. They have a global reach, having worked to strengthen reproductive rights on five continents. Their work in the United States has focused on congressional, Federal, and state-level advocacy, as well as focusing on their courts. On August 30, 2021, the Center for Reproductive Rights filed an emergency request with the U.S. Supreme Court to block Texas' radical six-week abortion ban SB8 before it was due to take effect on September 1. And, the Center for Reproductive Rights took Oklahoma to court to stop five unconstitutional anti-abortion laws. As the organization at the heart of the current legal battles to protect the right to choose, the Center is best poised to continue using the courts to defend reproductive rights.

Health Access Fund (f/s Panorama Global, no website)

The Health Access Fund uses an innovative legal strategy to protect and expand access to medical abortion care across the US, with a focus on states where access is already the most restricted. The strategy is based on the Supremacy Clause of the Constitution, which establishes that federal law takes precedence over state laws. Congress enacted the 1938 Food Drug & Cosmetic Act and subsequent amendments to grant the Food and Drug Administration the authority to regulate drugs in the US. It is well established that FDA-approved labels preempt conflicting state laws, shown in civil and criminal liability suits brought by individuals. Decades of pharmaceutical product liability and other case law – including Supreme Court decisions penned by conservative justices – solidify these principles. For medical abortion, preemption doctrine would bar states from requiring conditions of use not in the FDA-approved label, including: non-medically indicated ultrasounds, waiting periods, misleading counseling, restrictions on who may prescribe mifepristone, hospital admitting privileges, and facilities standards. This legal approach could permanently block many state laws that currently frustrate access to medical abortion care and block future laws designed to hamper access. This specific legal approach could ensure access to abortion via oral medication nationally. Health Access Fund is seeking a \$2 million investment per state to start their legal approach.

Beyond California: Reproductive Justice Organizations

Yellowhammer Fund

The Yellowhammer Fund is a 501(c)3 abortion fund and reproductive justice organization serving Alabama, Mississippi, and the Deep South. They envision a society in which reproductive decisions are made free from coercion, shame, or state interference, a society in which individuals and communities have autonomy in making healthy choices regarding their bodies and their futures. They work in community education and empowerment, policy advocacy, and the development of systems of mutual aid to ensure that friends, families, and neighbors never go without the things they need. Yellowhammer Fund provides practical, financial and logistical support for those who need to access reproductive healthcare services in Alabama or Alabamians needing care in other states. Services include: abortion funding, travel and lodging support, emergency contraception access, referrals to local medical services providing abortion, contraception, STI diagnosis and treatment, hormone therapies, prenatal care and other needs without judgement and without discrimination due to race, gender, income, marriage status, sexual orientation, ability or age, and comprehensive, ageappropriate sexual education materials. Clinics in surrounding states have quietly stopped or slowed down their abortion services as they attempt to discover the impact of new litigation laws and abortion bans, putting an extra burden on independent and for-profit clinics. Yellowhammer provides the funds necessary for individuals to access care, where they can.

ARC Southeast

The Access Reproductive Care-Southeast provides funding and logistical support to ensure Southerners receive safe and compassionate reproductive care including abortion services. Through education and leadership development they build power in communities of color to abolish stigma and restore dignity and justice. ARC-Souteast supports individuals in **Alabama**, **Florida**, **Georgia**, **Mississippi**, **South Carolina** and **Tennessee** through their health line, where callers can request financial assistance or practical support (rides, lodging, or escort).

Abortion Fund of Arizona

The Abortion Fund of Arizona works to ensure abortion access for Arizonans as a fundamental human right, essential for equality, health, and dignity. Originally an affiliate organization of NARAL America, AFAZ became an autonomous grassroots organization in 2018, dedicated to serving their local communities, offsetting the cost of safe and legal abortion and educating the public about abortion access in Az. In Az, current laws require a mandatory counseling appointment, ultrasound and 24-hour waiting period, meaning everyone in Az seeking an abortion has at least two days of appointments. Funding is prioritized for those facing the greatest barriers to abortion in Az, especially people beyond 16 weeks gestation and have to travel to Phoenix for care.

Jane's Due Process

Jane's Due Process helps **young people in Texas** navigate parental consent laws and confidentially access abortion and birth control. They provide free legal support, 1-on-1 case management, and stigma-free information on sexual and reproductive health. Their 24/7 hotline, in both Spanish and English, helps teens access both abortion and birth control, as does their text service (8am-11pm). They also use storytelling to destigmatize abortion by uplifting the voices and stories of teens who have accessed abortion.

Frontera Fund

Frontera Fund's mission is to make abortion accessible in the **Rio Grande Valley** by providing financial and practical support regardless of immigration status, gender identity, ability, sexual orientation, race, class, age, or religious affiliation, and to build grassroots organizing power at intersecting issues across our region to shift the culture of shame and stigma. They are fighting to block Texas' 6-week abortion ban SB 8 in partnership with The Lawyering Project and their sibling funds, Janes Due Process, Lilith Fund, TEA Fund, The Afiya Center, and Fund Texas Choice. They also run a helpline for abortion access info that takes calls and texts in both Spanish and English.

National Reproductive Justice Organizations

Indigenous Women Rising

IWR is committed to honor Native & Indigenous People's inherent right to equitable and culturally safe health options through accessible health education, resources and advocacy. They have launched an **abortion access fund to help Indigenous Women across the United States and Canada**. In addition to funding abortion access, IWR organizes their community around full range contraception, safety while incarcerated, clean water and air, safe workplaces, breast/chest feeding support, culturally sensitive prenatal, birth and postpartum care, and accessible behavioral healthcare and substance use care.

Groundswell Fund

Run by run by women of color and transgender and gender non-conforming people of color who come out of grassroots organizing, Groundswell Fund supports a stronger, more effective U.S. movement for reproductive justice by mobilizing new funding and capacity building resources to grassroots organizing, social justice movements and policy change efforts that center on the leadership of Black, Indigenous, Transgender and other Women of Color through funder organizing, grants and capacity-building resources. Groundswell has moved more than \$65 million to more than 200 organizations, both 501c3s and 501c4s., in 47 states including Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. Their annual funds include: Catalyst Fund, Rapid Response Fund, Birth Justice Fund, Liberation Fund (intersectional organizing across a diversity of social movements), and the Black Trans Fund.

National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum

National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF) plays a unique role in the reproductive justice movement as the only AANHPI-led and AANHPI-focused national organization, with chapters in Arizona, Chicago, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, New York City, St. Cloud (Minnesota), and Texas. Almost no research to date has examined the abortion needs of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. NAPAWF is currently recruiting Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders between the ages of 18 and 49 who were assigned female or intersex at birth for focus group discussions or in-depth interviews as part of a groundbreaking research study on attitudes and knowledge about medication abortion. The organization has also made other key strides locally and federally on reproductive justice, such as winning the creation of a Reproductive Justice Commission (RJC) in Atlanta that will make sure that local ordinances reflect RJ needs of women, people who can give birth, and families, the establishment of which was a response to the state's controversial six-week "heartbeat" abortion law from May 2019, which was struck down in 2020. Federally, NAPAWF helped to introduce the Health Equity and Access under the Law (HEAL) to ensure that access to healthcare does not depend on immigration status. They also continue to fight in multiple states against sex and race selection abortion bans that are being used to test and overturn Roe v. Wade; and expand its year-round integrated voter engagement work into a new state.

SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective

Based in the South with chapters in Georgia, North Caroline, and Kentucky, SisterSong supports the expansion of reproductive justice into other social justice movements, trains the next generation of feminists/activists on the evolution of the RJ framework, centering on the international declaration of human rights, creates spaces for our movement leaders and organizations to engage in continual professional and organizational development toward the sustainability and longevity of RJ work, and provides a platform for our movement to work together collaboratively on shared policy and advocacy goals for the advancement of RJ. SisterSong helped to win an important victory in Georgia which prohibits strip searches and shackling of incarcerated people during pregnancy, labor, and postpartum recovery. They also helped to block a harmful GA state policy that would have created an advisory board to administer licensing and regulation for midwives, making it harder for many already practicing community-based midwives and women of color to qualify. SisterSong, as part of the AMPLIFY GA coalition, also helped win the creation of the Reproductive Justice Commission (RJC) in Atlanta. SisterSong continues to expand its role in building RJ movement infrastructure by providing funding and capacity building for birth justice organizations.

Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equality (URGE)

Formerly CHOICE USA, Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equity (URGE) is a national RJ organization that centers the voices and leadership of young people of color and LGBTQ+ youth working on the ground in AL, CA, GA, KS, OH, and TX. In 2019, URGE leaders helped to win the College Student Right to Access Act that makes medication abortion available at CA's state university and college campuses and sets a national precedent in an era of abortion restrictions. During the same year, URGE challenged a series of abortion bans in AL, GA, and OH, and an anti-trans bathroom bill in TX. Since then, the organization has launched a national Young People's Reproductive Justice Policy Agenda focused on the needs of LGBTQ+ youth and young people of color around abortion access, sexuality education, democracy reform, economic justice, decriminalization, and immigrant justice. During the pandemic, URGE has continued to organize young people around its priorities of abortion access (helping to create the first-ever reproductive health, rights and justice statewide coalition in Alabama), sex work decriminalization and municipal-level abortion access campaigns in TX, and economic justice for young people whose lives have been devastated by pandemic-related shutdowns.

National Network of Abortion Funds

The National Network of Abortion Funds build power with its members to remove financial and logistical barriers to abortion access by centering people who have abortions and organizing at the intersections of racial, economic, and reproductive justice. It is a network of 90 organizations that work to raise funds to support people seeking abortion services. Given the different nature of reproductive rights in different states, this work varies across the country and in different organizations, and NNAF's role is to raise the national profile of this worry, raise funds, and to ensure equitable distribution of funds according to need. NNAF also helps direct individuals to abortion funds in their area who can directly support them and their specific needs. NNAF closely tracks statelevel legislative fights to educate their members and also to better support their funds. They unabashedly center BIPOC and queer experiences in reproductive justice battles.

Clinics and Healthcare Provision—Nationwide

Birthworkers of Color Collective

Birthworkers of Color Collective supports marginalized communities in LA County by providing full spectrum doula services that are accessible and inclusive. They connect pregnant/birthing/& postpartum individuals, their families, and larger communities with educational, emotional, and physical support through all pregnancy & postpartum outcomes. They conduct workshops and trainings to share knowledge, promote advocacy, build resources & expand the number of trained/competent/& culturally relevant doulas. By prioritizing accessibility, they are able to train a cohort of doulas twice year, offering a sliding scale or fully funded scholarship program. Pivoting during the pandemic, their training program is now virtual, allowing individuals of color from across the country to train with them. In LA County, the Birthworkers of Color Collective was selected to work with incarcerated birthing individuals to provide doula services.

Kalauokekahuli

Kalauokekahuli encourages the healthy growth of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander families by supporting and enhancing the well-being of birthing people, parents, and their infants with holistic, multi-generational, and culturally-rooted care regardless of socioeconomic privilege. By offering culturally relevant educational classes and workshops, in addition to providing access to high quality prenatal, birth, and postpartum services, they strive to positively influence birth and postpartum outcomes for Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. Kalauokekahuli offers support groups, culturally affirming classes and workshops, and support by birthworkers. Services are centered in Maui, with an additional directory being built to services the outer islands.

Kindred Space LA (f/s Project Motherpath)

Kindred Space is a birthing, education and training facility owned and operated by Black midwives, applying a racial justice lens to all of their birth work. They offer home birth, lactation consultations, placenta encapsulation, childbirth education, prenatal breastfeeding education, parenting support and Birthworker training in the greater Los Angeles area. Research shows that Black women's rate of death before, during or after childbirth is 3-12x higher than white women, Kindred Space aims to address the disproportionate rates of Black maternal and infant mortality. In 2020 they moved to a newly renovated building in Hyde Park, South LA, an area identified by LA County as an area with one of the highest rates of infant mortality in the region. They have a \$300,000 fundraising goal to continue funding the renovation costs and to support clients with the out-of-pocket costs for using the facility.

Trust Women Foundation & Clinics

Trust Women was born out of the tragedy of Dr. George Tiller's assassination, Wichita's sole abortion provider for 40 years. Their mission is to open clinics that provide abortion care in underserved communities so women can make their own decisions about their healthcare, operating out of **Wichita, KS** and **Oklahoma City, OK**. After the passage of Texas SB 8, Oklahoma saw an increase of abortions for women from Texas jump from an average of 40 per month to 222 in September 2021 and 243 in October 2021. As of April 2022, with the passage the Oklahoma Hearbeat Act, SB 1503 which took effect immediately, 900,000 Ok patients were left without access to abortion. Modeled after the Texas ban, this new law bans abortions after six weeks of pregnancy, a point in which many people do not realize they are pregnant.

Whole Women's Health Alliance

Whole Women's Health Alliance is committed to providing abortion access through their clinics, removing the stigma around abortion through their education and outreach programs, and pursuing litigation in the battleground states where they operate. In each lawsuit, they are represented by the Center for Reproductive Rights or The Lawyering Project. WWH has four clinics in Texas, and five others in Indiana, Virginia, Maryland, and Minnesota. The Stigma Relief Fund directly covers the cost of services for those who cannot afford it, and is available at all of their clinics.

Women's Reproductive Rights Assistance Project

WRRAP provides funds to 700 pre-screened, pre-qualified health clinics across the nation on behalf of low-income and disadvantaged women in need of abortion services or emergency contraceptives, on a case-by-case basis. Because so many reproductive health centers have closed and, thus, many states have very few remaining (Kentucky, Mississippi, and Alabama have just one), the clinics located closest to patients may be in neighboring states, rather than in patients' home states. WRRAP enables its patients to receive care at WRRAP approved clinics of their choosing, regardless of location, and all clinics are members of Planned Parenthood Federation of America featuring the latest, state-of-the-art facilities, and best practices and procedures. WRRAP does not demand repayment of funds and operates on a philosophy of non-judgment toward the women they assist. Their mission is to ensure that all women, from all walks of life, are afforded the equal opportunity to gain access to safe, legal abortion services and emergency contraceptives. In 2020, the organization was able to commit to 3,043 women across the country, at a total cost of \$622,694. Of the women WRRAP served in 2020, 77% were BIPOC, 58% were unemployed (many due to COVID-19), 156 patients (7%) were under age 18.