

MD REPRODUCTIVE ADVOCATES NETWORK

January 2026 Newsletter

Hello, Reproductive Justice Advocates!

Here's our first newsletter of 2026. These are tough times, and we hope you and yours are as well as possible — and staying warm and safe with all the snow!

Read on for updates, news, resources, and upcoming events related to reproductive justice!

STATE UPDATES

2026 Legislative Session Bill Trackers

The 2026 legislative session started on January 14th! We're [tracking bills related to reproductive justice in this spreadsheet](#), which we'll be updating once a week (usually on Mondays). Are there any bills you're watching that you want to be included on this list? Email Alice (alice@advancemaryland.org).

Trans Maryland also has [an excellent policy tracker on their website here](#).

Legislative Updates

We're hoping that a package of bills to affirm and strengthen Maryland's shielding laws for legally protected care will be introduced (and passed) this session. Thank you to everyone who signed the letter late last year urging them to take action! If you would like to stay updated on the legislative package, please sign up for the legislative workgroup by emailing alice@advancemaryland.org.

NATIONAL NEWS

Texas Sues Delaware Nurse Practitioner Accused of Mailing Abortion Pills Across State Lines

Texas announced a lawsuit against a nurse practitioner, Debra Lynch, who operates a Delaware-based group called Her Safe Harbor, which mails abortion pills to women living in states with abortion bans. The case largely rests on media stories where Lynch says she mails abortion pills and provides medical consultations to Texans, not on examples of specific abortions.

But it is unclear if Delaware's shield laws protect providers supporting telemedicine abortions in other states, "Delaware's law was expanded in late 2025, in part to clarify that officials may not aid out-of-state investigations into abortion providers – a move that may offer Lynch additional protection. The Texas case may then depend on when, exactly, Lynch mailed abortion pills into the red state."

[Read more from Carter Sherman in the Guardian here.](#)

Pam Bondi May Use a Pro-Choice Law to Target Anti-ICE Protestors

The DOJ may be considering using the FACE Act, a law created to protect abortion clinics from violence, to prosecute anti-ICE protestors in Minnesota. Minnesotans protested at a church where the pastor also worked as a top ICE official. Conservative talking heads are calling on AG Bondi to charge them with FACT Act violations, citing the law's religious freedoms protections.

[Read more from Jessica Valenti in Abortion, Every Day here.](#)

A Pregnant Woman at Risk of Heart Failure Couldn't Get Urgent Treatment. She Died Waiting for an Abortion.

Ciji Graham, a 34-year old police officer in Greensboro, North Carolina died earlier this month while waiting for an abortion. She was having an episode of atrial fibrillation, a rapid, irregular heartbeat, which had occurred in the past and she was able to manage by getting a procedure called cardioversion. But the doctor said she couldn't get cardioversion because she was pregnant, and was sent home. She was repeatedly denied standard cardiac care due to her pregnancy. Graham tried to get an abortion in order to be able to receive treatment, but because of restrictions in North Carolina and surrounding states she couldn't get an appointment quickly enough. She died of cardiac arrhythmia just days before her abortion appointment. Graham's death is proof of the dangers of abortion restrictions, especially for pregnant people with chronic health conditions.

[Read more from Lizzie Presser and Kavitha Surana in Pro Publica here.](#)

Newsom Rejects Louisiana Call to Extradite California Doctor over Abortion Pills

A San Francisco area provider who prescribed and shipped abortion pills into Louisiana has been indicted in St. Tammany Parish on a criminal charge of abortion by means of abortion-inducing drugs. Governor Newsom has rejected the request for extradition, saying, "My position on this has been clear since 2022:

We will not allow extremist politicians from other states to reach into California and try to punish doctors based on allegations that they provided reproductive health care services."

This is the second time Louisiana has tried to get an extradition for a provider for prescribing abortion pills, and highlights the importance of clarifying the intent of Maryland's shielding laws to ensure providers are protected "regardless of patient location."

[Read more from Ryan Mancini in the Hill here](#), and from [Jessica Valenti in Abortion, Every Day here](#).

Wyoming Supreme Court Rules Abortion is Healthcare

A huge victory in Wyoming! After Roe was overturned, the Wyoming state legislature passed two different abortion bans – one banned abortion generally, and the other banned abortion medication. The laws were challenged, but the state appealed that abortion isn't healthcare. The case made its way through the courts to the state Supreme Court, which ruled earlier this month to reject these two abortion bans, saying that the state failed to provide legal precedent that abortion isn't healthcare. This is huge.

[Read more from Jessica Valenti in Abortion, Every Day here](#).

Major Battles for Reproductive Rights in 2026 Will Play Out in FDA and Courts

Reproductive health scholar Rachel Rebouché predicts that this year, the battles for reproductive justice will not be at the ballot, but instead through federal courts and agencies. Medication abortion, telehealth, and shield laws are all likely to come under fire.

[Read more from Rachel Rebouché in Truthout here](#).

Veterans Affairs Department Reimposing near Total Abortion Ban

In a quietly-issued memo, the DOJ directed the VA to stop providing abortions in any circumstance – including for rape, incest, or when the pregnant person's life is in danger. Veterans were previously able to access abortion care in these instances, but the new policy is effectively an abortion ban for veterans, reinstating "the full exclusion on abortions and abortion counseling from the medical benefits package."

[Read more from Brian Dakss in CBS News here](#), and from [the Center for Reproductive Rights here](#).

RESOURCES & INFORMATION

MEMO: The Erosion of Reproductive Freedom and Democracy One Year Under Trump

It's been a year of Trump 2.0, and Reproductive Freedom for All has compiled a memo on the numerous ways this administration has executed a coordinated effort to dismantle democracy, strip away fundamental rights, and roll back reproductive freedom everywhere.

[Read the memo from Reproductive Freedom for All here.](#)

Trump's (Second) First Year: New and Emerging Threats to Reproductive Rights

The Center for Reproductive Rights also put together a report highlighting the most harmful executive attacks on reproductive rights, the pact of these attacks on people's health, and what to expect in 2026.

[Read the analysis here](#), download [the full report here](#).

One Year of the Trump-Vance Administration

On a similar note, Planned Parenthood put together their own report, tip sheet, and blog post about the attacks on reproductive freedom over the past year.

[Read their blog post here](#), access [the full report here](#), and find [the tip sheet here](#).

Recording: Reproaction Act and Learn Webinar: The Fight for Abortion Rights in the States: Anti-Abortion State Policies and Strategies to Expect in 2026

Watch Reproaction's recent webinar, where they discussed predictions for 2026 state anti-abortion legislation, upcoming abortion ballot measures, and innovative state solutions to combat anti-abortion policy.

[Watch the webinar here.](#)

John Hopkins Medicine Offers Free Platform for Young People to Take Control of Their Sexual and Reproductive Health

"The Violet Project was created in 2020 by Jenell Coleman, M.D., M.P.H., a board-certified gynecologist and the former division director of gynecologic specialties at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, and Saumya Sao, a public health researcher and aspiring physician. Coleman and Sao wanted to create a reliable and accessible platform for young people to take control of their sexual and reproductive health."

[Read more in Johns Hopkins News here](#), and access [The Violet Project here](#).

EVENTS

Mobile Pathways – Hidden Trends in Immigration Court Webinar

Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 1PM ET

[Register here](#)

Join Mobile Pathways on February 4th at 1pm EST for a live webinar uncovering hidden trends in U.S. immigration court, featuring immigration attorney Jeffrey O'Brien and former San Francisco Immigration Judge Jeremiah Johnson. We'll share the latest data-driven insights on fast-moving shifts and emerging threats to immigration justice.

National Immigration Law Center – Empower Communities: Health & Public Benefits

Wednesday, February 11 at 1:00 PM on Zoom

[RSVP here](#)

Join us for an in-depth webinar on the first year of the Trump administration and its impact on immigrant communities. This session will cover how enhanced immigration enforcement is undermining the rights of immigrant families by creating barriers to health services and fear around accessing public benefits programs. This session is designed for direct service providers, advocates, and policymakers.

La Fe y Aborto / Faith & Abortion

Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 7:30–9:00 PM ET

[Register here](#)

Join us for a bilingual event with interpretation that explores the facts and connection between abortion and religion. This is an event for anyone who might benefit from some guidance and practice on how to talk about abortion with friends, family and community members when religion is brought up. / Acompáñanos en un evento bilingüe con interpretación que explora la conexión entre el aborto y la religión. Este es un evento para cualquier persona que pueda beneficiarse de orientación y práctica sobre cómo hablar sobre el aborto con amigos, familiares y miembros de la comunidad cuando se menciona la religión.

Have an upcoming event you want us to highlight in our next newsletter?

Email alice@advancemaryland.org.

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