

# MD REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE ADVOCATES NETWORK

## March 2026 Newsletter

Hello, Reproductive Justice Advocates!

Happy Spring! We're enjoying watching the trees and flowers start to bloom, and hope you've been getting outside on these warmer days even amidst the session chaos!

We're closing in on the end of the Maryland Legislative Session. Last Monday we passed a crucial session deadline, crossover day. If a bill didn't pass either the House or the Senate by crossover day, it has a much smaller chance of becoming law this session. While many important reproductive justice and bodily autonomy bills didn't make it out of either chamber, a few great bills did!

Check out our bill tracker in the link below (we highlighted bills that passed out of one chamber in green under the 'current status' column) to see what's still in play for this legislative session!

**BODILY AUTONOMY/REPRO JUSTICE BILL TRACKER**

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

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## STATE UPDATES

### **Ethics, Lead Shot, Housing and Gender Identity: Lawmakers Plow Through Bills on Crossover Day**

Hundreds of bills passed through the House and Senate on Crossover Day, and this Maryland Matters article highlights the Birth Certificate Modernization Act, which would make it easier to update one's gender on a birth certificate, and add an X as one of the gender marker options, as one of them. SB626, "barely passing on a 24-16 vote — 24 votes are the minimum to pass in the 47-member Senate — late in the day, with four Democrats voting against the bill and seven lawmakers absent or not in the room during the vote." Additionally, **the Senate accepted an unacceptable amendment from Republican Senator Mike McKay requiring the state Health Department to keep a record of changes of birth certificate designations. While this list would be sealed and not subject to**

**public information requests, it still puts trans people at risk and undermines the very goal of the bill.**

[Read more from Danielle J. Brown, William J. Ford and Christine Condon for Maryland Matters here.](#)

## **Supporters Hope to See Emergency Abortions Enshrined in State Law This Year**

Senator Lam and Delegate Lopez's bill to codify the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) into state statute has a chance to pass this session! SB169 / HB372, which would ensure pregnant people receive emergency abortion care when their lives are in danger, have passed their respective chambers. However, faith-based hospitals and anti-abortion activists are pushing against the bill, and have even threatened that if the bill becomes law, they will challenge it in court as violation of the First Amendment and religious freedom under the Maryland State Constitution.

[Read more from Danielle J. Brown in Maryland Matters here.](#)

## **HHS Investigating 13 States for 'Coercing' Health Care Providers to Provide Abortions**

The Department of Health and Human Services is launching investigations into 13 states, including Maryland for "violating a federal health refusal clause and 'coercing' health care entities into providing or performing abortion services." Maryland and the 12 other states have allegedly violated the Weldon Amendment, a provision that says that any state or local government receiving federal funds cannot "discriminate" against any health care providers that refuse to cover, pay for, refer, or provide an abortion. Our state has 20 days to respond to the HHS letter.

[Read more from Joseph Choi in The Hill here.](#)

# **NATIONAL NEWS**

## **A Georgia Hospital Turned Her In, Now She's Charged with Murder**

A 31-year-old in Georgia has been arrested and charged with murder, possession of a controlled substance, and possession of a "dangerous drug" after taking abortion pills – despite the fact that Georgia law does not allow for the prosecution of abortion patients. This case is notable because it exemplifies two trends in the criminalization of abortion:

1. Abortion, Every Day says it best again “a woman of color is turned in by healthcare providers over her pregnancy outcome, questioned by police while still in the hospital, and her name and mugshot are splashed across local crime pages.
2. Prosecutors are getting creative with the charges they can use to circumvent prohibitions on prosecuting abortion care patients.

“But what this case and so many others remind us is that authorities simply don’t care. They’re just desperate to criminalize us.”

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

## **LGBTQ Data is Disappearing under Trump, Reports Find**

According to research from two reports tracking changes to LGBTQIA+ data in Trump’s first year back in office, the federal government has removed questions about sexual orientation and gender identity on over 360 government surveys, forms, research projects and other data collections – and that number will likely grow. Removing data makes it harder to measure the harm of the anti-LGBTQIA+ policies enacted by this administration, as well as enforce civil rights laws and allocate resources.

[Read more from Natalie Alms for Government Executive here.](#)

## **US Supreme Court Blocks California Privacy Protections for Trans Students**

The US Supreme Court has ruled to block California laws that can limit the sharing of information with parents about the gender identity of transgender students in public schools. The ruling from SCOTUS ends a more than two year battle through state and federal courts, delivering a victory for parents who challenged the laws on the grounds of religion and due process.

[Read more from Abené Clayton for The Guardian here.](#)

## **Republicans Introduce Absurd Bill To Stop 'Pollution' Of Drinking Water With Fetal Remains**

Earlier this month, Rep. Mary Miller of Illinois introduced “The Clean Water for All Life Act,” which would make it illegal for people to flush abortion or miscarriage remains when using mifepristone. The bill would require people to use “catch kits” when ending their pregnancies, forcing them to bag up that tissue and blood and bring it to a doctor as medical waste. The bill would also ban telehealth abortion care, and the ability to prescribe abortion pills via mail. The penalties include a \$50,000 fine and up to five years in prison. Jessica Valenti from Abortion, Every Day says it best: “Requiring women to use ‘catch kits’ has nothing to do with saving America’s water, and everything to do with humiliation.”

[Read more from Alanna Vagianos for Huffpost here](#), and from [Jessica Valenti and Kylie Cheung for Abortion, Every Day here](#).

## **Hawley Introduces Bill to Remove FDA Approval for Mifepristone**

Earlier this month, Sen. Josh Hawley (R, MO) introduced legislation to remove the FDA approval for the use of mifepristone to end pregnancies. In his introduction announcement, he cited a study showing the drug is “inherently dangerous” – a study that has been subject to numerous fact checks.

[Read more from Alexander Bolton for The Hill here](#).

## **Majority of Americans Say Medication Abortion Should be Legal**

While a wide partisan gap exists, new research from the Pew Research Center more than half of Americans (55%) say medication abortion should be legal in their state, while a much smaller share (26%) say it should be illegal. About two-in-ten (18%) say they are not sure.

[Read more from Hannah Hartig, Andy Cerda, and Asta Kallo for Pew Research Center here](#).

## **Abortion Bans Reshaped Reproductive Health, and Now the Rental Market**

New research from the National Bureau of Economic Research, a nonprofit research organization, shows that people are leaving or avoiding living in states with abortion bans – resulting in lower rental prices and higher vacancies than in states that protect reproductive rights.

The research compared the housing markets in states with abortion bans and those without restrictions from July 2022 (the first month after the end of *Roe v. Wade*) and June 2025. Housing markets with bans experienced a 2.2% decline in rental prices, and a 1.1% increase in rental vacancy rates.

[Read more from Shefali Luthra for The 19th here](#).

## **Birth Control Clinics Rush to Reapply for Funding After Receiving New Trump Admin Guidance**

Clinics that receive federal funding to provide contraceptive and reproductive health services had one week to apply for additional Title X Family Planning Program funding, after a long-delayed guidance was issued on Friday, March 13th. The guidance was expected before the end of last year, as current funding runs out on April 1. Millions of low-income people could lose access to birth control, STI tests, cancer screenings and other care without this funding.

In response, a group of 128 Democratic members of Congress sent a letter to Health Secretary Kennedy calling on the federal government to issue a one year funding extension, as a funding process cannot be fully executed before the funding runs out.

[Read more from Alice Miranda Ollstein for Politico here](#), and from [Selena Simmons-Duffin for NPR here](#).

## **Closed Clinics, Canceled Care: New Data Shows Effects of One Big Beautiful Bill's Attack on Planned Parenthood**

The toll of the attacks on Planned Parenthood in the “Big Beautiful Bill” are coming into focus. New data released from PP shows that more than 500 health centers have closed, breast exam visits have dropped 25%, IUD insertions have dropped 40%, visits for birth control pills have dropped 20%, and STI screenings have dropped 10%. These services make up the bulk of PP’s work, as abortion care only accounts for 4% of the services they provide.

[Read more from Julianne McShane for MS Now here](#).

# RESOURCES & INFORMATION

## **Public Leadership Institute – Unregulated Pregnancy Clinics: The Policy Playbook**

The Public Leadership Institute developed this playbook to serve as a practical resource for policymakers, advocates, and community leaders seeking to hold unregulated pregnancy clinics (UPCs)—also known as crisis pregnancy centers—accountable.

[Download the Policy Playbook here](#).

## **Families USA – The Battle Over Mifepristone Access in 2026**

Check out this new blog post from Families USA about the battle over Mifepristone access in 2026. They hope it serves as a helpful summary for state and federal health advocates who are engaging—or looking to engage—in the ongoing fight to protect access to Mifepristone.

[Read the blog post here](#).

## **Reproaction Webinar Recording – Fertility Treatments vs. Junk Science**

Attacks on fertility treatment, especially in vitro fertilization (IVF), are on the rise—both at national and state levels. Despite Americans’ overwhelming support for IVF access, anti-abortion activists are dead-set on revoking access to fertility care as part of its decades-long goal to establish personhood from the point of conception. Under the guise of so-called “fetal personhood,” these bad actors are making it harder to separate fertility facts from fiction.

On this webinar, we explain various fertility methods by differentiating fact-based methods from the misinformed treatments pushing conservative ideologies. We also discuss the onslaught of legislation threatening IVF access and navigating the confusing legal landscape put in place by anti-abortion activists.

[Watch the webinar recording here.](#)

## **Guttmacher – Full-Year 2025 Abortion Incidence and Travel Report**

This report presents new 2025 full-year estimates of the incidence of clinician-provided abortion care and travel across state lines for abortion from Guttmacher’s [Monthly Abortion Provision Study](#). For the first time, these include estimates of telehealth provision to residents of states with total bans; the report also updates prior year estimates to include these states.

Topline Findings:

- The number of clinician-provided abortions remains largely unchanged from the estimated 1,124,000 clinician-provided abortions in 2024.
- In states without total bans, abortion provision decreased slightly from 1,049,000 to 1,036,000.
- In states with total bans, telehealth provision increased from 74,000 in 2024 to 91,000 in 2025.

[Read the topline findings here](#), and [the full report here](#).

## **Asian Law Caucus – When Babies Lose Coverage, Everyone Pays Report**

The Asian Law Caucus just released a new report on the healthcare costs of ending birthright citizenship. On his first day in office, Trump signed an Executive Order ending birthright citizenship. While it has been blocked by courts across the country, the fight isn’t over. The Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in *Trump v. Barbara*, on April 1, 2026, with a decision expected by the end of June.

[Read the full report When Babies Lose Coverage, Everyone Pays here.](#)

## **United for Democracy – Post Callais: PARTNER GUIDE**

The Supreme Court decision on Louisiana v. Callais is expected soon, which will determine if race can be considered when drawing district maps, even if to correct proven discrimination. To prepare for an unfavorable ruling, United for Democracy has assembled a guide with a map for what the days following a decision look like so that we can move forward prepared and coordinated.

[Read the guide here.](#)

# EVENTS

## **Secular Student Alliance: Reproductive Rights in 2026: What We Need to Know**

Wednesday, April 1 from 7-8PM ET online

[More info + RSVP here](#)

Reproductive rights in the United States are shifting fast, and 2026 is already shaping up to be a make-or-break year. This timely panel brings together legal, policy, advocacy, and scientific experts to break down what's changing now and what it means for real access to care.

Panelists will examine the evolving legal landscape, emerging enforcement strategies, and the growing role of digital privacy and health data in reproductive health investigations and outcomes. The discussion will also explore how recent policy changes are affecting pregnant people across the country, including those most vulnerable to surveillance, criminalization, and barriers to care.

Expect a clear-eyed, practical conversation about where things stand, what's coming next, and how advocates and communities can respond.

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

Email [alice@advancemaryland.org](mailto:alice@advancemaryland.org).

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