

# MD REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE ADVOCATES NETWORK

## May 2026 Newsletter

Hello, Reproductive Justice Advocates!

Happy (almost) Pride Month! Hope everyone is doing as well as possible.

The last month has been stress inducing to say the least with the back-and-forth on mifepristone access. While access remains for now, we know we have to be preparing for ongoing threats to medication abortion. **Below, we've highlighted local and national stories about the case and what comes next, as well as resources for advocates, providers, and patients.** Read on for this and other news, resources, and events related to reproductive justice and bodily autonomy!

**We hope to see you at the [Trans Rights Advocacy Coalition Double Feature Movie fundraiser at Peabody Heights on June 10th](#)** featured in the events sections at the end – it's sure to be a great evening! We've also highlighted some of the Pride events happening — don't miss it!

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## STATE UPDATES

### **Mifepristone Ruling Could Halt Mailed Abortion Pills in 'Shield States' Like Maryland**

While we know that SCOTUS ruled to continue to allow access to mifepristone while the Louisiana case moves through the lower courts (more on that in the federal updates section) we also know that the abortion pills will be subject to continued attack – and it's important we prepare.

Every month, 500-plus Marylanders receive abortion medication that was mailed to them after a telehealth medical visit. As Abortion Fund of Maryland Executive Director Lynn McCann-Yeh says, eliminating abortion pills by mail, "For a Maryland resident who may not be able to get to a clinic, this is a huge logistical hurdle. You now have to travel to the clinic, which might be anywhere from 30 minutes to a few hours away. If you are a parent or have disabilities, if you're working to make ends meet and you're concerned about costs – all of these create a lot of additional hassles that people in Maryland would have to go to get abortion care that's otherwise protected and supported in their state."

[Read more from Danielle J. Brown for Maryland Matters here](#), and [Sarah Petrowich for WPYR here](#).

## **Maryland Women Want Better Menopause Care. Lawmakers Are Listening.**

A bill signed by Governor Moore on May 26th will incentivize provider training on menopause care by doubling continuing education credits for practitioners who complete menopause training, and require health insurance coverage for evaluations and treatment. The legislation, championed by House Speaker Joseline Peña-Melnyk and Sen. Dawn Gile, responds to women's frustrations with a medical system failing them. One woman shared that her doctor told her "That is just how it is," while another said "I had to find out about HRT from a YouTube influencer."

[Read more from Brenda Wintrode for the Baltimore Banner here](#).

## **Maryland Launches 'One-Stop' Resource Website for New, Expecting Parents**

The Governor's Office for Children unveiled a new website providing information on health insurance, parental leave, and support services for new families. The site includes links to the Maternal Health Innovation Program with a searchable map of services (food resources, housing assistance, WIC clinics), safe sleep guidance, early childhood learning resources, and the child care scholarship program (which has \$20 million in new funding to reduce the 5,000+ family waiting list). Printed copies will be distributed at hospitals, social services departments, and Patty Centers.

[Read more from William J. Ford for Maryland Matters here](#).

# **NATIONAL NEWS**

## **Republicans Aren't Done With Mifepristone**

What a month – on May 1st, a federal court temporarily blocked the FDA rule that allows mifepristone to be prescribed without an in-person visit – agreeing with Louisiana Attorney General that the ruling “undermines” the state’s anti-abortion law. After the decision came down, mifepristone manufacturers urged the Supreme Court to intervene – they issued a stay on the decision. In a ruling on May 14th, they kicked the decision back to the lower court, allowing access to remain while the case continues in the Fifth Circuit court.

But this isn't a victory – medication abortion is still under attack, and the SCOTUS ruling hints at future threats. Justices Thomas and Alito dissented, with Thomas pointing to the Comstock Act and Alito calling

telemedicine abortion "a scheme to undermine our decision in Dobbs." Abortion rights leaders see this as SCOTUS delaying the inevitability of the case returning to the Supreme Court, possibly until after the midterms.

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

## **The Exit of This Trump Administration Official Could Threaten Abortion Access Nationwide**

FDA Commissioner Marty Makary's planned resignation creates an opening for anti-abortion activists to push for national restrictions on abortion, particularly limiting mifepristone availability. Anti-abortion groups started calling for Makary to be fired after he requested any review of mifepristone be postponed until after the midterm elections – and they're pushing for a more extreme anti-abortion candidate to be his successor.

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

## **House Passes "Don't Say Trans" Bill that Would Force Teachers to Out Trans Students Nationwide**

The House passed the "Stopping Indoctrination and Protecting Kids Act" in a 217-198 vote, requiring schools to get parental permission before using transgender students' correct names and pronouns or risk losing federal funding. The bill includes no exceptions for potentially abusive households, forcing teachers to out trans youth even when it could put them at risk of harm. LGBTQ+ advocates condemn the legislation as dangerous censorship that puts vulnerable children in jeopardy while banning schools from acknowledging transgender people exist.

[Read more from Alex Bollinger for LGBTQ Nation here.](#)

## **Republicans Introduced a National Abortion Ban and They Think You Won't Notice**

Earlier this month, Senate and House Republicans introduced legislation that would criminalize dilation and evacuation (D&E) procedures, – the most common way to end a pregnancy in the second trimester. They think that by banning one procedure, rather than abortion more broadly, that they'll be able to effectively sneak an abortion ban past us without the usual uproar. They're wrong!

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

## **HHS Celebrates Mother's Day with Pro-Life Pregnancy Advice**

On Mother's Day, the US Department of Health and Human Services launched Moms.gov, a website that promotes pro-life pregnancy centers for new and expecting mothers while claiming to offer guidance on maternal health and family well-being. The site prominently features links to Option Line, a service that directs people to crisis pregnancy centers known for attempting to dissuade individuals from accessing abortion care. Option Line is a tool that Heartbeat International uses to collect massive amounts of data on pregnant women.

[Read more from Alex Nguyen for Mother Jones here](#), and [Jessica Valenti for Abortion, Every Day here](#).

## **NYU Langone First Known Hospital to Face Federal Criminal Subpoena Over Trans Youth Care**

NYU Langone has become the first known hospital to receive a federal criminal subpoena over providing gender-affirming care to transgender youth, with the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Northern District of Texas demanding information on all patients under 18 who received such care between 2020 and 2026. This marks a significant escalation from previous administrative subpoenas, as criminal proceedings carry the risk of arrest and jail time for providers. New York's strong shield laws required the hospital to notify affected patients before complying, and offer some protection against out-of-state prosecution.

[Read more from S. Baum for Erin in the Morning here](#).

## **New Court Challenge Targets Virginia Abortion Amendment Ballot Language**

Founding Freedoms Law Center, the legal arm of the conservative advocacy group Family Foundation is suing to challenge the proposed constitutional amendment that would enshrine reproductive rights in the Virginia state constitution. They're using the same fearmongering we've come to expect, saying that it would eliminate parental rights and a cumbersome, life-threatening three-doctor requirement for later in pregnancy abortions.

[Read more from Charlotte Rene Woods in Virginia Mercury here](#).

## **Governor Signs Oklahoma Bill Criminalizing Providing Abortion-Inducing Drugs**

Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt has signed into law a bill that criminalizes the distribution of abortion-inducing drugs. Penalties include up to \$100,000 in fines and 10 years in prison. The person taking the pills cannot be charged, but anyone who helps them obtain the pills can—including parents, friends, siblings, or doctors.

[Read more from Barbara Hoberock for Oklahoma Voice here](#), and [Terré Gables for KFOR here](#).

## **NJ Acts to Protect Access to Abortion, Transgender Health Care in Trump Era**

New Jersey lawmakers are advancing legislation that would make it a criminal act to interfere with people seeking or providing reproductive and gender-affirming health services, including penalties for protesters blocking clinic access, recording patients, or using intimidation tactics within 100 feet of facilities. The bill would also impose civil penalties on entities hindering these rights, prohibit health insurers from denying coverage for abortion and gender transition services, and protect medical providers from facing criminal or civil penalties in other states for treating out-of-state patients. This legislation aims to codify into protections established via executive order by Governor Phil Murphy's in 2023.

[Read more from Susan K. Livio for NJ.com here.](#)

# **RESOURCES & INFORMATION**

## **The Commonwealth Fund – 2026 State Health Disparities Report**

The Commonwealth Fund's 2026 State Health Disparities Report highlights racial and ethnic health disparities that persist in every state, and are likely to get worse as federal policy changes go into effect. While ensuring disparities in access, quality, and outcomes still persist, Maryland is one of the top 4 states with comparatively high performance across racial and ethnic groups. [Access the full report here.](#)

## **The Hydra Fund – Abortion Pills by Mail: Messaging Guidance on Mifepristone Access**

Jex, a leader with [The Hydra Fund](#), a mutual aid project supporting abortion access in Michigan, put together some great messaging guidance on mifepristone access. The document includes top level talking points, background information, suggested language, helpful resources, and some news articles. [Access the Messaging Guidance here.](#)

## **Plan C – How People Are Getting Abortion Pills in Advance**

Plan C's research shows that many providers will send abortion pills in advance, just to have on hand. This guide outlines where to get abortion pills in advance, outlines costs, and addresses many potential questions about stocking up on abortion pills in the changing legal landscape. Plan C also has a state-

searchable resource on options for abortion pills by mail. [Read the guide here.](#)

## **You Always Have Options**

[You Always Have Options](#) is a great resource for people seeking abortion care, even if they live in a restricted state. They have resources on getting care, legal questions, medical questions, peer support, and more. [Explore youalwayshaveoptions.com here.](#)

## **Reproaction – Understanding and Advocating for Self-Managed Abortion**

This guide from Reproaction explores self-managed abortion with misoprostol, as well as mifepristone and misoprostol. It goes through what to expect, side effects, common misconceptions, and where to get the medication. [Read the full guide here.](#)

## **Center for Reproductive Rights – Webinar Replay: "What Trump's Second Term Means for Reproductive Rights"**

The Trump administration has spent its first three months chipping away at reproductive rights and access to reproductive health care in the U.S. and around the world. In this webinar replay, you'll learn from Center experts about the:

- Administration's anti-repro actions during its first 100 days;
- Harmful impacts of those actions on national and global on reproductive rights and health—including access to abortion, birth control, gender-affirming care, and more; and
- Threats to lawyers and how that could impact your ability to fight back when your freedoms are violated.

Speakers will also share key insights from the Center's new report, *Repro Red Flags: Trump's First 100 Days*, detailing the administration's sweeping attacks on reproductive rights and health. [Watch the webinar replay here.](#)

# EVENTS

## **Reproductive Health and Freedom Watch: The Infrastructure behind Regressive Reproductive and Maternal Health Policy**

This call is being offered on multiple days. You can register for the date that works best for you below:

- [Thursday, June 4 from 2-3:30pm ET](#)
- [Thursday, July 16 from 3-4:30pm ET](#)
- [Tuesday, August 11 from 1-2:30pm ET](#)

RHFW will share what we've learned about the infrastructure driving regressive reproductive health policy, equipping advocates to present this information confidently in their own communities. We'll walk through how the anti-choice movement moves money, builds power, and sustains capacity at the national, state, and local levels. You'll also hear about emerging vulnerabilities and opportunities for collective strategy in a rapidly shifting landscape. RHFW has been presenting this briefing since early 2026, and the content changes only slightly between iterations.

### **Caregivers of Trans Youth Support Group**

Monday, June 8 from 6:30-8:30pm (and every 2nd and 4th Monday of every month)

MoCo Pride Center, 4805 Edgemoor Lane, Bethesda MD

[RSVP here](#)

Are you a parent or caregiver to a trans or nonbinary child? Join MoCo Pride Center, Trans Maryland, and Rainbow Youth Alliance to share stories and resources to support our kids. Our CTY Support Group is led exclusively by trans and nonbinary members of the community! We meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM at the MoCo Pride Center offices. **This is a peer-to-peer meeting group, not a counseling or medical service.**

### **Double Feature – I Saw The TV Glow & The People's Joker – Benefit for TRAC**

Wednesday, June 10 from 5:30-10pm

Peabody Heights Brewery, 401 E 30th Street, Baltimore MD

[Get tickets here – \\$10](#)

Join the Trans Rights Advocacy Coalition to enjoy two trans directed movies at Peabody Heights Brewery! "I Saw The TV Glow" will show at 6pm, and "The People's Joker" will go on at 8pm. All proceeds will benefit TRAC's work to advance progress for trans Marylanders, rooted in racial justice and queer liberation.

### **June is Pride Month!**

Celebrate Pride Month in Maryland! There are parades, festivals, educational events, fashion shows and MORE happening across our state in June! Here's a noncomprehensive list of some of the Pride events

to check out. [You can also find more events here.](#)

- **[Baltimore Pride June 13-14](#)**
  - Baltimore Pride Parade Saturday, June 13, 12pm-3pm Charles Street & North Avenue
  - Baltimore Pride Block Party June 13, 1pm-9pm Druid Hill Park
  - Baltimore Pride Festival June 14 12pm-8pm Druid Hill Park
- **[Montgomery County Pride in the Plaza](#)**: Sunday, June 28, 2026 12 - 8pm. Veterans Plaza, 1 Veterans Place Silver Spring, MD, 20910
- **[Frederick Pride June 26-28](#)**
  - Frederick Pride Parade Friday, June 26th, 7pm in Downtown Frederick
  - Pride Festival, Saturday June 27th, 11am-1pm at Carroll Creek Linear Park
  - Bike Ride, Sunday June 28th, 9-11am in Baker Park
  - Brunch Crawl, Sunday June 28th, 11am-4pm in Downtown Frederick
  - Spill the Tea with INIKO, Sunday June 28th, 4pm at the Maryland Ensemble Theater
- **[Inaugural Annapolis Pride Fashion Show and Auction](#)**: Friday June 12, 6-8pm at Groundswell Yoga, 48 Maryland Ave.

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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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