

## In the News



# Amid efforts to restrict mifepristone access, here's what studies say about the medication

ABORTION

HEALTH CARE

WELL INFORMED



A recent [article](#) from PolitiFact examining the safety of mifepristone highlighted a public [comment](#) CRHLP and Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health at UCSF submitted on behalf of more than 260 researchers to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The letter affirms mifepristone's safety record, explains why recent reports that attempt to muddy that record lack scientific rigor and reliability, and urges the FDA to ground future decisions in transparent, rigorous science.

The article explores ongoing legal and political attacks on mifepristone and highlights the broad scientific consensus on medication abortion safety, citing more than 100 studies conducted over the past three decades showing that serious complications are exceedingly rare and that medication abortion remains highly effective.

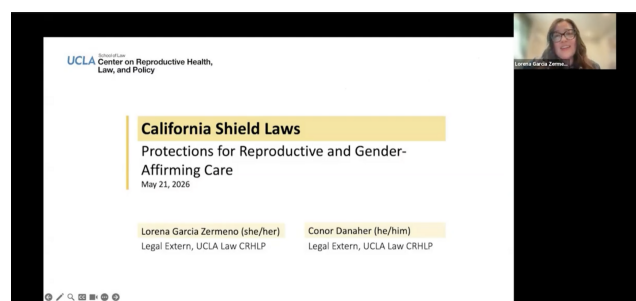
## Events

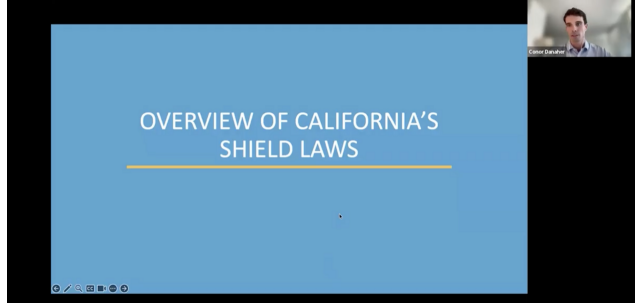


Join CRHLP and Los Angeles Guild for Reproductive Health on June 11th, from 6-8pm for Community & Conversation: Reproductive Health in America. Staff Attorney Cathren Cohen will be joining Dr. Kim Bader and moderator Amanda Smith for a discussion about the state of reproductive health locally and nationally.

This event, co-hosted by HODG HQ & Westside HODG, marking the anniversary of the Dobbs decision won't be one to miss! RSVP [here](#).

## Event Recap





On May 21, CRHLP's legal externs Conor Danaher and Lorena Garcia Zermen joined Doctors for America and CRHLP for a presentation on California's shield laws. The two discussed California shield laws' vital role as a defense for healthcare equity, provider safety, reproductive rights, and access to gender-affirming care.

Watch the recording of the webinar [here](#) and learn more about shield laws using our [Shield Law Guide](#).

## Policy News

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Photo credit: Shutterstock

The Trump Administration [has proposed](#) a new federal rule that would allow employers to offer optional standalone insurance plans covering fertility-related care, including IVF, fertility medications, genetic testing, and treatment for conditions such as endometriosis and polycystic ovary syndrome. The proposed rule, announced jointly by the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Treasury, would create a supplemental insurance option separate from standard health coverage by expanding the category of “excepted benefits,” allowing these plans to operate outside many Affordable Care Act consumer protection requirements. While the proposal could expand access to fertility treatment for some employees and families, the National Health Law Program [warned](#) that the rule comes as the administration simultaneously weakens broader health care protections and attacks access to comprehensive reproductive and sexual health care. Advocates and health policy experts have also [raised concerns](#) that the supplemental plans may still be prohibitively expensive because employers would not be required to subsidize coverage or offer the benefit at all. Additionally, because the rule focuses on coverage for physical or medical related infertility, it is unclear whether this limited benefit would necessarily help LGBTQ people or single people who need fertility-related care to build their families.



Photo credit: Arkansas Gem

A legal challenge to Arkansas' near-total abortion ban [will move forward](#) after a Pulaski County judge [reversed](#) her earlier dismissal of the case, allowing plaintiffs to continue challenging one of the country's strictest abortion laws. The lawsuit argues that Arkansas' abortion ban has denied patients essential medical care and forced doctors to delay treatment for dangerous pregnancy complications.

Among the lead plaintiffs is Emily Waldorf, whose story [was recently featured](#) in ProPublica's Life of the Mother series. Waldorf is an Arkansas resident who was denied standard miscarriage care while experiencing a dangerous pregnancy loss at 17 weeks. After doctors confirmed that she was miscarrying, they repeatedly told her that the standard of care would be to empty her uterus to prevent life-threatening infection. But because fetal cardiac activity was still present, doctors said Arkansas' abortion ban prevented them from intervening.

Waldorf was forced to endure days in a hospital while doctors monitored her condition and waited for signs of severe infection or for fetal cardiac activity to stop. Waldorf ultimately crossed state lines to receive the medically necessary treatment, where doctors immediately induced labor to protect her health. She later suffered severe bleeding complications that doctors said were likely worsened by the delay in care.

To learn more, read ProPublica's "[Life of the Mother](#)" series. This ongoing investigation documents the impact of abortion bans on miscarriage and emergency pregnancy care, and how abortion restrictions are creating confusion, delays, and preventable harm for patients facing serious pregnancy complications.



A federal appeals court has [upheld the dismissal](#) of a lawsuit challenging Michigan's voter-approved constitutional amendment protecting reproductive freedom, ruling that the plaintiffs – Right to Life of Michigan and four individuals -- lacked standing to bring the case. The lawsuit argued that future enforcement of the 2022 ballot initiative that enshrined reproductive freedom rights in the Michigan Constitution would potentially violate the constitutional rights of parents by allowing minors to receive reproductive health care without parental consent. The United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit agreed with the lower court that the plaintiffs failed to show their alleged injuries were directly traceable to the state officials named in the suit or that the requested relief would address those concerns.

## Food for Thought

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With so much going on in the world of reproductive health, law, and policy, every week we'll share articles, books, and media you might have missed.

[A Stillbirth And Facebook Post Expressing Her Grief Landed Her In Prison For Over 2 Years. Experts Say It's Part Of A Pattern](#)

[The Largest Undocumented Disparity In Maternal Health](#)

[The Word 'Black' Has Disappeared From A Set Of Bills Aimed At Addressing Black Maternal Health](#)

[As Voters Prioritize Cost Of Living, Focus On Abortion Evolves In Midterm Elections](#)



Reimagining the future of reproductive health, law, and policy.

UCLA Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy is a think tank and research center created to develop long-term, lasting solutions that advance all aspects of reproductive justice, and address the current national crisis of abortion access.

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