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In the News

Mother Jones



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POLITICS

How Blue States Got Around the GOP's Efforts to Ban Abortion in Red States

*Four years ago, shield laws didn't exist. Now, they are one of the strongest
weapons in the reproductive-rights arsenal.*

NINA MARTIN 7 HOURS AGO



CRHLP Legal and Policy Director Diana Kasdan was featured in a Mother Jones [article](#) discussing how state shield laws have emerged as one of the most effective tools for protecting abortion access post-Dobbs.

The article, citing CRHLP's frequently used [Shield Law Guide](#), highlights how shield laws are designed to protect against out-of-state investigations, prosecutions, and extradition efforts targeting abortion providers and patients. These protections have become central to ensuring continued access, particularly through telehealth, as states like Texas and Louisiana attempt to extend their abortion bans by suing providers in shield law states.

As Diana explained, California has taken steps to strengthen privacy protections in response to increasingly aggressive tactics used to target abortion care. Some lawsuits, she noted, are relying on information obtained from men who have searched through their partners' personal belongings looking for abortion medication.

As the article makes clear, shield laws are not only holding up under pressure—they are playing a critical role in preserving access to care nationwide. Read the full article [here](#).

Events



College | Life Sciences
**Center for Reproductive
Science, Health & Education**

**Save the
date!**

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES

featuring

Dr. Teresa Woodruff

**Michigan State University Research Foundation
Professor and President Emerita of MSU**

 **Wednesday, April 8th 2026**

 **4:00pm**

 **UCLA Campus. CNSI
Building**

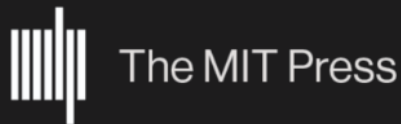
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www.reprohealth.ucla.edu



Dr. Teresa Woodruff
Spring 2026

The UCLA Center for Reproductive Science, Health and Education welcomes National Medal of Science awardee Dr. Teresa Woodruff, a pioneer in merging the fields of oncology and fertility preservation and a recognized champion of women's health.

CRHLP is excited to co-sponsor this year's UCLA Center for Reproductive Science, Health, and Education's Distinguished Speaker Series and welcome Dr. Teresa Woodruff, National Medal of Science Awardee and internationally recognized leader in reproductive science. Dr. Woodruff will be speaking on April 8th at 4:00 PM at the UCLA Campus California NanoSystems Institute. Register [here](#) and save your spot!



Book talk with **Khiara M. Bridges** author of *Expecting Inequity*

April 9, 2026 — 7 p.m.
The Reparations Club

Los Angeles, CA

Join Khiara M. Bridges, professor of law at UC Berkeley School of Law, in conversation with Kimberly Durdin, midwife, educator, and doula trainer, for a discussion about Professor Bridges' new book [Expecting Inequity: How the Maternal Health Crisis Affects Even the Wealthiest Black Americans](#). Professor Bridges and Kimberly Durdin both shared their expertise at convening, [Advancing Constitutional and Maternal Health Rights for Pregnant People.](#), and their public panel is available to watch on [Youtube](#).

[Register now](#) for this exciting conversation, which will be held on April 9th at 7 pm at the Reparations Club!



Photo credit: AP News

Washington has enacted a [new law](#) making it easier to distribute its state-purchased stockpile of the abortion medication mifepristone before it expires or if the state needs to act quickly due to changes from the courts or FDA. The law gives the Department of Health more flexibility in how to distribute the pills to providers, including at no cost or lower cost than previously required. The law is meant to avoid previous challenges which required the state to return 30,000 expiring doses to the manufacturer due in part to prior legal requirements that the state sell the medication at cost.

Legal News



Photo credit: Anna Sporre/Missouri Independent

The Wyoming governor has [signed](#) a new law banning abortions once embryonic cardiac activity is detectable (typically around six weeks of pregnancy and often before many people know they are pregnant), making Wyoming the fifth state to enact such a restriction. The law includes a narrow exception for medical emergencies to protect the pregnant person's life or health but does not include exceptions for rape or incest. The governor signed the ban into law even though it [creates a direct conflict](#) with the recent decision of the Wyoming Supreme Court striking down a broader abortion ban on state constitutional grounds. Already patients have been turned away as a result of the new law. Wellspring Health Access, the only clinic in the state, is amending its three current lawsuits seeking to preserve access to abortion in the state to challenge the new ban.



Photo credit: PBS

An Indiana court [has issued](#) a permanent injunction blocking enforcement of the state's abortion ban against a class of plaintiffs with religious beliefs requiring access to abortion. The case, brought under the state's version of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, found that the ban substantially burdens plaintiffs' religious exercise and that the state failed to show the law was the least restrictive means of advancing a compelling interest. This is one of [several cases raising religious freedom claims](#) in state courts in the wake of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. The Indiana attorney general has appealed.

Food for Thought



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.

[They Didn't Want To Have C-sections. A Judge Would Decide How They Gave Birth.](#)

[Mississippi Leads The Nation In Gun Deaths Among Pregnant And Postpartum People](#)

[Reproductive Health Clinics Scramble As Title X Funding Cliff Approaches](#)

["There Are People Who Will Listen." Making Inroads To Black Maternal Health Outcomes](#)



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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