

Immediate Release

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Media Contact

Kelsey Padilla

padilla@law.ucla.edu

310-267-4382

Important Webinar Today Will Bring Together Voices from Prosecutor Associations, Ob-Gyn Organizations, and Advocates in a Rare Conversation

UCLA Law CRHLP also releases the first comprehensive database compiling statements from 272 organizations across sectors—including health care, law, education, and labor—opposing abortion bans and the criminalization of reproductive health care

Today, the UCLA Law Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy (CRHLP) will host a webinar to address the issue of pregnancy criminalization. It will feature perspectives from health care providers, law enforcement, advocates, and researchers and share resources that can be used by advocates working to combat criminalization of health care, and particularly criminalization of reproductive health care and pregnancy. CRHLP Staff Attorney Cathren Cohen will moderate a panel discussion with Pregnancy Justice’s Michele Ko, MPH, Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Penn State University and Former American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) Darney-Landy Fellow Michael A. Belmonte, MD, and Project Director of the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys Addressing Disparities to Reproductive Health Project Beth Merachnik. **Registration for attending the webinar or receiving a Zoom recording can be found [here](#).**

In addition to the webinar, CRHLP is launching a new database of statements from **272 organizations** across various sectors opposing abortion bans and criminalization of reproductive health care. This database demonstrates widespread opposition to the *Dobbs* decision and restrictions on reproductive health care, including wider pregnancy and health care criminalization, from organizations representing a diverse array of industries, including health, medicine, law, education, labor, social science, and human rights, as well as private businesses, religious groups, and advocates. This resource aims to support efforts to oppose the criminalization of health care. **You can access the database [here](#).** The creation of this database was made possible by generous funding from the Collaborative for Gender and Reproductive Equity.

“We hope our webinar discussion and database help show that there is a strong consensus across sectors and disciplines that health care should be left to patients and health care professionals, not politicians, prosecutors, or police,” said Melissa Goodman, Executive Director of the UCLA Law Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy. “The hundreds of statements made since *Dobbs* collected in this

database describe not only opposition to criminalization of reproductive health care and pregnancy, but also the many harms the *Dobbs* ruling has unleashed and encouraged. Harms like undermining the professional expertise and ethical obligations of health care practitioners, causing preventable deaths and worse health outcomes for all pregnant people, undermining public trust in the legal system, and more. In a moment where people reasonably fear even more surveillance, investigations, and enforcement of laws that criminalize health care, it's important to show strong cross-discipline opposition to health care bans and criminalization."

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The UCLA Law Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy

The UCLA Law Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy is an independently funded think tank and research center developing long-term, lasting solutions that advance all aspects of reproductive justice and address the current national crisis of abortion access. We are lawyers, policy experts, scholars, and researchers who are working to increase access to abortion and contraception, end racial and economic disparities in maternal health outcomes, support people who decide to build families, and dismantle the gender bias that limits reproductive justice.