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Dear Neighbors,

While the anti-abortion movement has been chipping away at abortion rights for forty years (as well as firebombing clinics and threatening the lives of abortion providers), and while reproductive justice activists especially in the South have been sounding more recent alarms, Monday night's Supreme Court decision leak endangering abortion rights feels exhausting and scary. The bodily autonomy of pregnant people is an inalienable right and needs to be safeguarded. As a candidate, Biden promised to [codify](#) it, and yet precious little has been done on the part of the White House and Congress.

It's also important to remember that anti-abortion rhetoric and policy are of a piece with anti-trans rhetoric and policy. Both operate under the white supremacist principle of state control of marginalized people's bodies. As historian Jules Gill-Peterson has [written](#) about anti-trans legislation, "The state is trying to add a cisgender identity to its fictional biography."

If you would like places to productively place your energy and time, there are many!

- **Support abortion funds** through the [National Network of Abortion Funds](#), both locally and in states where rights are most under threat. (Right now, that isn't New York, but the religious right isn't going to stop.)
- **Help shore up New Yorkers' legal rights.** Since 2019, we've had the Reproductive Health Act, which made abortion protection state law, but there is more to be done. Currently there are bills from State Senators Liz Krueger and Alessandra Biaggi that would protect [abortion providers](#) and [establish a state abortion access fund](#).
- **Stay aware of what's happening nationally.** There are 13 states whose access is most under threat due to the ["trigger laws"](#) they've passed (which will go into effect if Roe is overturned). Bans have passed at least one chamber in seven states: Arizona, Idaho, Wyoming, Florida, Kentucky, Oklahoma and West Virginia. They have been enacted in six states: Florida, Oklahoma, Kentucky, Arizona, Idaho and Wyoming.
- **Do some reading online.** The [Guttmacher Institute](#), a research and policy organization in health policy and reproductive justice, has a wealth of resources on abortion. New River

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an [Allyship Research Guide](#) that centers Black activist-led and brown activist-led work.

- **Read community-curated resource lists.** Make sure these are sourced from people with lived and/or professional experience in reproductive justice. [How to Show up For Abortion Access](#) and [Abortion Funds in Every State](#) are two recently-curated examples.
- **Read some books.** Verso Books currently has the [e-book](#) of Jenny Brown's *Without Apology: The Abortion Struggle Now* available for free. Other great books to check out are Loretta Ross and Jael Silliman's [Undivided Rights: Women of Color Organizing for Reproductive Justice](#), Dorothy Roberts' [Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of Liberty](#), Robin Marty's [Handbook for a Post-Roe America](#), and Angela Davis' [Women, Race, and Class](#).
- **Learn from experts.** Reproductive justice is a Black-led access movement that in popular understandings of abortion rights, often gets eclipsed by white-led institutions. For example, Dorothy Roberts is a Northwestern University law professor and author of [Killing the Black Body](#), [Shattered Bonds](#), and [Torn Apart: How the Child Welfare System Destroys Black Families—and How Abolition Can Build a Safer World](#), and [Laurie Bertram Roberts](#) (no relation!) is the co-founder and executive director of the Yellowhammer Fund, a reproductive justice organization based in Alabama.
- **Plug in to existing projects.** Reproductive justice work is not new, and every time abortion is under threat, well-meaning people try to propose new solutions. Instead of that, plug into the expert work that is already going on. See what the experts you are learning from are doing/amplifying, and plug in to help.

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

LAST MONTH BY THE NUMBERS

Here's what happened in April 2022:

Responding to Community Needs:

87 calls and **83** text exchanges came through our hotline

130+ requests of food, medicine, and baby supplies were fulfilled

Groceries & Essentials Fund:

\$9,301.94 was contributed in April, and **\$486,481.65** has been contributed in total

\$12,900.41 was disbursed in April, and **\$461,471.81** has been disbursed in total

\$27,137.41 is our current bank balance

Community:

2,833 Instagram followers

1,930 Slack community members

80 people are currently shopping regularly for a neighbor