



CHOICE Remarks

WINTER 2023

Awaiting Ruling in Nationwide Ban of Abortion Drug

A group of anti-abortion activists and organizations have sued the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in federal court in Amarillo, Texas over the FDA's approval of mifepristone, one of two medications most commonly used in medication abortion in the United States. If they are successful, it could mean an immediate end of the FDA approval of mifepristone, which is used in more than half of abortion procedures nationwide – taking it off the market will significantly compromise abortion access across the country – including in California, Illinois, and New York, and other states that have secured abortion access.

“This case is a politically motivated attack from people seeking to ban abortion. We knew they would not stop at overturning Roe. The plan was always to ban abortion in the country as a whole and this is one more step in that direction,” says Chelly Hegan, UHPP President/CEO.



Let's be clear: Mifepristone is safe, effective, and has been used by more than five million people since the FDA approved it more than 20 years ago. Mifepristone has helped ensure that patients are able to make their own private medical decisions, and it has expanded access to reproductive health care – something that is very clearly under threat in this country. There is overwhelming evidence that medication abortion is safe and effective for virtually anyone who wants to end an early pregnancy, with a safety record of over 99%. At UHPP, 70% of abortions provided in 2022 were medication abortions.

Removing mifepristone from the market presents a real threat to people's ability to access abortion care, which is already out of reach for millions due to the overturning of Roe and states banning abortion. This is compounded for many who face barriers to health care as a result of systemic racism and discrimination.

UHPP and abortion providers across the country are preparing for all potential outcomes. UHPP is ready to provide patients access to medication abortion through the use of misoprostol—a drug that is not banned under this lawsuit and is approved by the FDA for abortion. While still a safe method, by itself misoprostol requires more doses of medication and has more significant side effects. ***“We want our patients to know they will still have access to safe and legal medication abortion regardless of the outcome of this case while we continue to push back against these anti-abortion judges and politicians who want to control our bodies and our lives.” Hegan said.***

Make a local impact with your gift today!

Patients come to us knowing they will receive the care they need and deserve, delivered with warmth and respect. Please consider a gift to our annual fund to support our ability to provide seamless abortion care at all three health centers.

We hope we can count on your local support today.



UHPP Awarded a Sexual Assault and Victims of Crime Services Grant

In late 2022, UHPP received a three-year grant from the Office of Victim Services to create a Sexual Assault and Victims of Crime Services Program. Through this program, we will be offering counseling, education, and advocacy for survivors of sexual assault and other crimes in Albany, Columbia, Greene, and Rensselaer counties. Support services will include emotional support and counseling, help with safety planning, help preparing victim impact statements for courts and parole boards, help finding shelter and transportation, referrals to other services, assistance with compensation applications, and information on sexual assault prevention beginning in the Spring 2023. *“Survivors of crime, abuse, and other forms of exploitation deserve our unequivocal support. With this new initiative, we will be able to reach individuals who have been directly impacted by crime and provide trauma-informed therapeutic services, legal systems advocacy, and direct material support through victim compensation claims. I hope that we can impact folks by restoring their sense of agency in the process, centering their healing, and providing the tools and financial support needed to rebuild their lives safely,”* says Madeline McQuail, UHPP Behavioral Healthcare Manager. For more information, visit uhpp.org.

UHPP Launches Micro-Spend Grant Program

UHPP was part of a community pilot program to support the short term needs of patients. Through the “micro-spend” pilot program, UHPP utilized funding to address patients, immediate, one-time needs – such as sneakers for kids, culturally appropriate clothing, space heaters, bus passes for interviews, driver’s licenses, utility bills, legal name changes for transgender and gender non-conforming patients, and many other social determinant of health factors up to \$150 per person. To determine need and allocate funds, UHPP’s Behavioral Health Counselors met with patients and offered one-time funding to those in need.



The program had such an enormously positive impact on our patients that UHPP is working to raise \$15,000 (\$10,000 has already been secured) to continue the program in 2023. *“We have found that these “micro-spend grants” are a great way to address immediate needs while allowing UHPP’s providers to work in partnership with patients to find longer term solutions through referrals to our community partners,”* says Marielle McKasty-Stagg, Chief Operating Officer at UHPP. If you would like to support this initiative, contact dev@uhpp.org.

Equal Rights Amendment Passes!

Constitutional Right to Reproductive Health, Expansion of Protected Classes to go before New York State Voters

The New York State Legislature approved the second passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), giving NY voters the opportunity to extend the protected classifications in the NYS Constitution. The current NYS constitution ERA was adopted in 1938 and prohibits discrimination based on “race, color, creed, or religion.” In January, the legislature passed the resolution to add a broad and inclusive Equal Rights Amendment that will prohibit discrimination based on ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, and sex - including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, and pregnancy outcomes. It would also protect against government actions that would impact one’s access to reproductive health care and their reproductive autonomy. It will now go to the NYS voters for approval in 2024, sending a strong message that New York believes in equality for all.



To find out more about the ERA or other legislation that was passed, visit uhpp.org or contact us at info@uhpp.org.



855 Central Avenue
Albany, NY 12206
uhpp.org | 518.434.5678

804 Columbia St.
Hudson, NY 12534

120 Hoosick Street
Troy, NY 12180