Current attacks on medical abortion

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The 1, 2 punch against abortion. First *Roe* was destroyed, now the Christian right is on a campaign to ban the abortion pill across the country.

Mifepristone is a drug used for abortions. It is how over half of U.S. pregnancies are terminated. It has been used for 23 years.

After the reversal of *Roe*, Biden pushed the FDA to broaden its availability to many more pharmacies, including large chains and mail-order companies. It is one of the Democrat's main responses to the ban on abortions.

But the right wing is determined to do away with all access to abortion and has been working on making the pill illegal for a while.

First, they targeted a Trump-appointed anti-abortion judge to hear the case now before federal court in Amarillo, Texas. They formed the Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine, a coalition of anti-abortion groups, and four anti-abortion doctors who sued the FDA. This effort is led by the conservative legal advocacy organization Alliance Defending Freedom whose lawyers worked on the Mississippi challenge to *Roe* that went to the Supreme Court and who are rabidly anti-LGBTQ+.

Not only do they want to overturn approval for mifepristone they want to bar misoprostol, the secondary drug, from being used for abortions. Judge Kacsmaryk held a hearing Wednesday 3/15 and plans to issue a ruling "soon." What is being sought is an injunction against the dispensing of mifepristone. 22 conservative states signed an amicus brief in support of the injunction but all 50 states would be impacted.

The expanded ability of commercial pharmacies to provide mifepristone happened in January. In February, 21 attorneys general from conservative states wrote Walgreens, CVS and other pharmacies threatening legal action should they dispense the pills. Christian right groups like Students for Life and the Family Research Council have also been pressuring pharmacies.

In response, at the beginning of this month, Walgreens announced it would not dispense abortion pills either by mail or at their brick-and-mortar locations in 21 states, including states where abortion is legal but the pill has challenges like Alaska, Iowa, Kansas, and Montana. Clearly, Walgreens doesn't want to risk expensive legal battles. Walgreens said they still intend to dispense mifepristone "in any jurisdiction where it is legally permissible to do so."

Walgreens also has a policy allowing staff to refuse birth control to customers based on their religious beliefs.

Recently, it came to light that the sole US distributor for mifepristone (AmerisourceBergen) had created a list in January of 31 states where it would not supply the medication.

Medication abortion is already outlawed in 13 states that have near-total bans, since those bans already prohibit all forms of abortion. Wyoming became the first state to outlaw the use of pills for abortion separate from an overall ban. Fifteen states already have limited access to abortion pills.

CA Gov Newsom said his state would cancel its contract with Walgreens. Michael Moore calls for a boycott.

Boycott pledges put forward by Women's March now have 17,610 signatures across 8,812 locations. But each campaign targets a specific store.

The hashtag #boycottwalgreens went viral on Twitter and TikTok, with 2.9 million views on Tiktok.

Occupy Democrats, a progressive media outlet, tweeted a call to boycott Walgreens that garnered 27,300 retweets.

On the court ruling, calls for day-of protests have been put out by Rise UP 4 Abortion Rights in Bay Area, Chicago, Austin and elsewhere.

We have to keep building the movement to pressure the powers that be!

If a fascist Texas judge revokes the FDA approval of Mifepristone, take to the streets and raise hell!

Fascist Judges: Keep Your Hands Off Abortion Medication!

Forced Motherhood = Female Enslavement!
Legal Abortion On Demand and
Without Apology Nationwide & Everywhere!

5 PM following day of decision
(following Monday if the decision comes out on Friday)

- **Downtown Berkeley BART station**
- **San Francisco Ferry Terminal**
- **San Jose: San Pedro Square Market**