MIDWEST

COALITION

Impact Report

2021

### Abortion is a Midwestern Value

Roe has never been enough for everyone who needs essential abortion care. TRAP laws have steadily shut down many clinics in this country. Since 2015, MAC has been accompanying those left behind by Roe's incomplete protection by paying for and arranging their travel, accommodations, meals, and childcare. For the past two years we've also been providing procedure funding as the pandemic has kept our clients from earning anything close to a living wage that could help pay for their abortion care.

As SB8 threatened to turn Texas into a post-Roe state, we knew the Midwest would need to prepare to support

It is no longer uncommon for a MAC client to have to fly for a one day procedure.

Texans. We held onto hope that the Supreme Court would not abdicate from its duty to protect rights but prepared for the worst. This month they confirmed the worst by continuing to allow SB8 to ignore federal law.

It is no longer uncommon for a MAC client to have to fly for a one day procedure, especially in states that have also banned providers from mailing abortion pills for people to safely take at home. We are heading into a difficult era for reproductive autonomy and justice. It's imperative that we do not give

up, that we normalize abortion care, and that we learn new ways to love and support each other.

In Solidarity,

Diana Parker-Kafka Executive Director

Midwest Access Coalition

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### 2021 At A Glance

We provided one-on-one holistic support to over 800 people from every state in the Midwest as well as 11 states to the south and east. Our biggest practical support costs: Gas Hotels \$40,000 \$120,000 **Flights** \$55,000 Rideshares Food \$20,000 Buses/trains \$15,000 \$10,000

After travel expenses, the biggest barriers our clients reported were childcare, domestic abuse, and housing instability.

MAC clients went to 69 abortion providers, up from 30 in 2020!



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# Scaling Up

As the number of callers and the complexity of need has grown steadily year after year, it's important for practical support organizations like MAC to grow. We still rely heavily on dedicated volunteer time and expertise, but as we prepare for a Post-Roe country we want to make sure to build strong support for people in the abortion access movement. We are very proud to announce two new hires!

Marie Khan joined us this fall as Director of Programs. Born and raised in Wisconsin, she has been a longtime MAC volunteer coordinator and was most recently at Abortion Access Front as Operations Manager. She also spends her weekends escorting clients at clinics that experience regular anti-choice harassment. Fun fact: she has two black cats named Chaka and Genghis.

Alison Dreith is the new part-time Director of Strategic Partnerships at MAC. She comes to us with over ten years experience in abortion movement work, having served as the Deputy Director at Hope Clinic for Women, Executive Director of NARAL Pro-Choice Missouri, and having worked multiple advocacy and clinical roles at Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region. She also raises goats!



### **Understanding SB8**

On September 1, 2021, the legislators of Texas were allowed to implement Senate Bill 8, a 6 week ban on abortion for all Texans. Despite SB8's violation of federal law, SCOTUS refused to grant an injunction and Texans who need essential abortion care are still being harmed.



As you know, the anti-choice movement uses dishonest rhetoric. The '6 week ban' restricts abortion care 6 weeks past a pregnant person's last menstrual cycle, putting the limit at 4 weeks gestation, assuming a consistent 28-day cycle. This leaves a window of about 1 week to accurately test for pregnancy and find a provider. Since most people do not know they are pregnant within this time frame, 85% of people needing abortion care will need to travel out of state.

Many eastern and central Texans are traveling to Kansas and Oklahoma for abortion care now. This often looks like many hours of driving to get the pill at a clinic and turning right around to drive many miles home. Some people stay overnight but many need to get back home for work or their children. As those clinics see more and more Texans, we are starting to support people traveling all the way to IL and MN for care.

**Longest Drive** 

13 hours 628 miles one way

# Understanding SCOTUS

The Supreme Court of the United States allowing a violation of federal abortion law to stand was another clear signal that SCOTUS is now a politicized majority anti-choice court. During oral arguments for Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, the majority made it clear from their questions that they do not believe in the right to abortion. The movement predicts SCOTUS will allow states to ban abortion at any gestation, ignoring the viability and undue burden precedents.

- Abortion destination states
- Non-ban states
- States that will ban abortion
- States where abortion is already effectively banned



Millions of people will lose their right to abortion care in their own states, leaving a handful of states in each region to support their essential needs. In the Midwest alone, 9 out of 12 states will ban abortion. Illinois, Minnesota, and Kansas will be destination states for thousands of people. These folks (and more!) are ready to accompany them on these journeys.



## Things To Celebrate

The Parental Notification Act has been repealed! <u>Starting June 2022</u>, young people will no longer have to go to court to access abortion care in Illinois. How have they accessed reproductive freedom during PNA?

- Contacted our partners at the ACLU Judicial Bypass Project for free legal representation
- Contacted MAC for travel support to and from IL for their court hearings and clinic appointments

The FDA decided to permanently allow abortion pills to be mailed by telehealth providers, <u>expanding access</u> to a safe method of abortion!



The anti-choice movement has stigmatized 'abortion' so much that people are afraid to use the word positively. So we started a store with pro-abortion swag. Help liberate abortion and wear it proudly wherever you go!









#### Immense Gratitude

For the drivers this year who filled in last minute ride needs, often early in the morning and late at night, and drove upwards of 3 hours one way. For the hosts that opened their homes and hearts to people who traveled far and wanted in person support during their journeys.

For our clients who worked with us to overcome this country's growing inequities. As always, they deserve better and we will keep trying to build a future that gives everyone complete control over their reproductive lives.

#### Major 2021 Funders

Charles and Lynn Schusterman Philanthropies

Planned Parenthood Federation of America

National Network of Abortion Funds

Conant Family Foundation

Reva & David Logan Foundation

Grant Healthcare Foundation

Citizen Tech Collective

James P and Brenda S Grusecki Family Foundation

Various donors through The Chicago Community Trust

Tara Health Foundation

Grant Healthcare

The Pixley Hill Foundation

Sara and Two C-Dogs Foundation

Chicago Foundation For Women

Horizons Foundation

Irvin Stern

Jessy Pucker

Hopewell Fund

Thank you to all the new donors who found us this year and to the

returning dedicated donors who continue to support us!

Isidore and Gladys J. Brown Fund at the Chicago Community Foundation

### Shout Out to Our Collaborators





















teens, reproductive rights, texas















# digital defense fund

#### MAC & Partners in the Media

Bracing for the Worst: MAC, Brigid Alliance, and KHJN

Abortion Funds Are In Crisis Preparing For The End Of Roe V. Wade: MAC, Brigid Alliance, NNAF, and TEAFund

In Minnesota and nationwide, COVID-19 has complicated abortion access: MAC, Our Justice

North Dakota's Only Clinic, Red River Women's Clinic, Speaks to NBC

Meg Sasse-Stern of KHJN speaks about Kentucky's Sneak Attack on Abortion Access

Michelle Davis of Women Have Options Spoke About Ohio's Own SB8 Law

Rae Guerra-Lorenzo of Indigenous Women Rising: Abortion is sacred. And the Supreme Court can't take that away from us.

Anna Rupani of FTC speaks about SB8's effect on transgender and nonbinary people

Dr. Erin King of Hope Clinic in IL speaks to NPR in STL About Repealing PNA

