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THE WEEKLY ISSUE

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My Body, My Choice
Mi Cuerpo, Mi Elección 8

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Table of Contents

Tabla de contenidos

Dying at the Border That Abbott Designed for Cruelty	4
Morir en la Frontera Que Abbott Diseña para la Crueldad	4
Lawmakers Cannot Miss This Chance to Expand the Child Tax Credit	5
November 2024 Will Determine the Fate of Women's Reproductive Rights	6
Noviembre de 2024 Determinará el Destino de los Derechos	6
Rising Suicide Rate Among Hispanics Worries Community Leaders	7
Líderes Comunitarios Alarmados por el Aumento de la Tasa de Suicidios en Hispanos	7
Phoenix Hosts 'National' Women's March, As Abortion Debate Moves to Arizona	8
Phoenix Acoge Una Marcha 'Nacional' de Mujeres, Mientras el Debate Sobre el Aborto Se Traslada a Arizona	9
<i>Nos Vemos Pronto</i> Offers a Rare Glimpse of the Migrant Struggle	10
<i>Nos Vemos Pronto</i> Ofrece Una Visión Inédita de la Lucha de los Inmigrantes	11
Congresswoman Caraveo Introduces Bill to Expand Capacity for Abortion Services	12
Reproductive Justice Coalition Launches Campaign to Put Abortion Access in Colorado Constitution	13
Lawmakers and Tenants Call on Governor to Make Rent Control a Priority	14
Legisladores e Inquilinos Piden al Gobernador que Haga del Control de los Alquileres Una Prioridad	15
Biden, Harris Vow to Restore Protections for Abortion Rights as 2024 Campaign Launches	16
Democratic Governors Ask Congress for Immigration Aid to Reverse Years of 'Inaction'	16





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Dying at the Border That Abbott Designed for Cruelty

Maribel Hastings and David Torres

There are differing versions about what happened on Jan. 11th when a mother and her two children drowned in the Rio Grande at the US-Mexico border. The tragedy occurred in Eagle Pass, Texas, and the immediate vicinity of a border park closed by the Republican governor of that state, Greg Abbott, as part of his "Operation Lone Star."

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) claims that the National Guard of Texas prevented the Border Patrol from entering the zone, after receiving a call from Mexican authorities about an emergency in progress. The Texas National Guard rejects that version.

One thing there is no doubt about is that a migrant mother and her two



children became yet another statistic, on a freezing Friday night at the border. But the tragedy highlights the fact that migrants are not numbers, but human beings with problems, worries, and aspirations, who decide to make the sometimes deadly decision of throwing themselves to the river at night, to see if they can arrive at what they consider the "Promised Land," the United States, fleeing the violence and poverty that plagues their countries of origin.

It's impossible to not understand the desperation of those migrants who, in their decision to not look back also find themselves in a fight between life or death, something that goes beyond any logical consideration in the terrain of migration politics and that, above all, focuses on establishing standards that seem more than a hindrance than a map to facilitate the exercise of the human right that is migration.

The dehumanization of those migrants begins in their countries of or-

igin, which cannot give them security or opportunities that would allow them to avoid the dangerous journey north. If they survive that journey, in a large proportion of cases they will end up being detained and deported to the same Hell that they fled. They will return to being part of the root of the migration problem, in large part fomented by the enormous inequality of an economic system that has gotten to a savage state, where humanism and equality do not form part of its essence.

And then there are those who are able to enter without documents and try to pass under the radar screen in towns and cities in the United States and begin a life in the shadows, which is a better alternative to what they had in their countries.

And there are also those, like this woman and her children, who die in the attempt.

What's lamentable is that all of this could be avoided if the immigration laws were reformed and legal paths for those migrants to come to the United States without risking their lives were

“

The tragedy highlights the fact that migrants are not numbers, but human beings with problems, worries, and aspirations.

widened; whether that be with work visas for industries that desperately need workers: increasing the visa cap for existing jobs; or through family reunification visas, since the citizens of

See **Hastings & Torres** on page 20

Morir en la Frontera Que Abbott Diseña para la Crueldad

Maribel Hastings and David Torres

Hay versiones encontradas sobre lo ocurrido el 11 de enero cuando una madre y sus dos hijos se ahogaron en el Río Grande en la frontera entre Estados Unidos y México. La tragedia ocurrió en Eagle Pass, Texas, en las inmediaciones de un parque fronterizo clausurado por el gobernador republicano de ese estado, Greg Abbott, como parte de su "Operación Estrella Solitaria".

El Departamento de Seguridad Nacional (DHS) asegura que la Guardia Nacional de Texas le impidió el paso a la Patrulla Fronteriza a la zona, luego de recibir un llamado de las autoridades mexicanas sobre una emergencia en progreso. La Guardia Nacional de Texas rechaza esa versión.

De lo que no cabe duda es que una madre migrante y sus dos hijos se convirtieron en una estadística más en una gélida noche de viernes en la frontera. Pero la tragedia hace resaltar que los migrantes no son números,

sino seres humanos con problemas, preocupaciones, aspiraciones que deciden tomar la a veces mortal decisión de lanzarse a un río de noche a ver si pueden arribar a la que consideran la "Tierra Prometida", Estados Unidos, huyendo de la violencia y la pobreza que plaga sus países de origen.

Es imposible no entender la desesperación de esos migrantes, que en su decisión por no mirar hacia atrás también se encuentra su lucha entre la vida y la muerte, algo que va más allá de cualquier consideración lógica en el terreno de la política migratoria, que sobre todo se concreta a establecer normas, las cuales parecen más un bloqueo que una hoja de ruta para facilitar el ejercicio de un derecho humano como es el de migrar.

La deshumanización de estos migrantes comienza desde los países de origen que no pueden brindarles la seguridad, ni las oportunidades que evitarían el peligroso viaje hacia el norte. Si sobreviven esa travesía, en gran parte de los casos terminan siendo detenidos y deportados al mismo infierno

del que huyeron. Vuelven a ser parte de la raíz del problema migratorio, en gran parte fomentado por la enorme desigualdad de un sistema económico que ha llegado a un estado salvaje, en el que el humanismo y la igualdad no forman parte de su esencia.

“

La tragedia hace resaltar que los migrantes no son números, sino seres humanos con problemas, preocupaciones, aspiraciones.

Luego están los que logran ingresar sin documentos a tratar de pasar desapercibidos en pueblos y ciudades de Estados Unidos, y a comenzar una vida en las sombras, que es una mejor alternativa a lo que tenían en sus países.

Y también están los que, como esta mujer y sus hijos, mueren en el intento.

Lo lamentable es que todo esto podría evitarse si se reformaran las leyes migratorias y se ampliaran las vías legales para que estos migrantes lleguen a Estados Unidos sin jugarse la vida; ya sea con visados de trabajo con industrias que desesperadamente requieren trabajadores; aumentando los topes de las visas de trabajo existentes; o con visas de reunificación familiar, ya que los ciudadanos de algunos países tienen que esperar décadas para poder reunirse con los familiares que los solicitaron en Estados Unidos.

Esa misma reforma permitiría un proceso de asilo que responda y se ajuste a las necesidades de este siglo.

A eso habría que sumar la legalización de los millones de indocumentados entre nosotros que ya trabajan y pagan impuestos. Legalizarlos supondría todavía más impuestos para el fisco. Y, claro está, dicha reforma destinaría más recursos para la frontera.

Pero durante las pasadas décadas los republicanos han bloqueado todo intento de concretar esa reforma migratoria en el Congreso y han preferido

explotar el tema con fines políticos y electorales, con el fin de seguir acusando a los demócratas de tener las fronteras "abiertas" y de permitir que los migrantes nos "invadan".

Abbott precisamente es uno de los republicanos que ha pasado de la retórica a la acción cruel y deshumanizante enviando migrantes en autobuses y aviones a ciudades lideradas por demócratas; colocando peligrosas boyas y alambre de púas en el Río Grande; declarando que lo único que no está haciendo su gobierno es "dispararle a la gente que cruza la frontera porque, claro está, la administración Biden nos acusaría de asesinato"; y clausurando el parque fronterizo en cuyas inmediaciones ocurrió la tragedia en 11 de enero.

Y para colmo, la amenaza contra los migrantes no cesa. El triunfo de Donald Trump en el caucus de Iowa supone que sube otro peldaño en su intento por lograr la nominación presidencial republicana, 15 de enero. El mismo Trump del muro, de la separación de familias, del Título 42 y de tantas otras políticas nefastas que añadió a su currículum antiinmigrante este pasado fin de semana la aseveración de que cuando asuma la presidencia en 2025 (si gana la nominación y la elección general), comenzará "la operación de deportación más grande en la historia de Estados Unidos".

Su asesor, el también antiinmigrante Stephen Miller, dijo en X con esa dosis de cinismo que le caracteriza que "las deportaciones comenzarán a mediodía del día de la toma de posesión".

Maribel Hastings es Asesora Ejecutiva de América's Voice. David Torres es Asesor en Español de América's Voice.

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Lawmakers Cannot Miss This Chance to Expand the Child Tax Credit

Clara Moore

From childhood on, I've spent my life haunted by the ghost of poverty.

A myth exists in America that financial well-being follows if we just work hard and make good choices. But it's not that simple. At some point, most of us face unforeseen obstacles — from physical or mental health challenges to lost jobs, economic downturns, and natural disasters.



military and subsidize the rich while cutting everything else. This isn't a lifestyle one chooses by being lazy and getting fat off some mythical government largesse.

For many of us, poverty means working multiple low-wage jobs and still being short on rent, child care, food, or the energy bill. Poverty means you don't have stable transportation and live in fear of anyone in your family needing health care.

It means your children go without good winter boots or new clothes because you need the lights to stay on. It means there's no time or money for anything beyond the scrape of daily life — no waterparks, no road trips, no relief.

People don't choose this lifestyle. It's created by policymakers who prioritize corporate profit and bloated military spending over investing in families in this country. Yet they expect poor people to be the ones who feel ashamed.

Along with low wages and other structural causes of poverty, that puts financial well-being out of reach for about 140 million people in this country, the Poor People's Campaign estimates.

The reality of poverty isn't even close to the stereotype propagated by politicians who want only to fund the

At one point I was living the American Dream. I'd been a successful chef, even bought a house at 23. But the 2008 collapse flipped my mortgage upside down, and the single investment I'd been able to make for my future crumbled.

A few years later, after the birth of my child, I was cast back into the same poverty I'd grown up with. Programs like Medicaid, SNAP, and WIC — the program to support women, infants, and children — kept our heads above water while I returned to university to complete an unfinished Bachelor's degree. But our heads dipped under a few times. It was exhausting.

By the time I'd completed a graduate program and we'd eked out some stability, the pandemic hit. But this time, the help was different.

The expanded and enhanced Child Tax Credit in President Biden's American Rescue Plan not only helped me pay my rent and monthly bills — it helped me be a better mom. Relieved of some financial anxiety, I could spend more time with my daughter and commit to the post-graduate job search, ultimately getting the good job that I have today.

Now I'm financially stable for the first time in my life. But tens of millions of others won't get that same chance unless lawmakers act. Congress let the expanded Child Tax Credit expire at the end of 2021, even though it had

cut child poverty in half. Subsequently, child poverty immediately skyrocketed — a disaster.

But now, Congress again has a chance to expand the Child Tax Credit in a tax package that may pass soon. Frustratingly, the package gives more tax breaks to corporations that already pay little to no taxes, even as it modestly expands the Child Tax Credit again — although by less than before — and improves the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit.

According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, the new credit would lift 400,000 children out of poverty, make 3 million children less poor, and help a substantial number of the remaining 19 million poor children currently excluded from the full benefit.

It's necessary, but not enough — too much money in the bill goes to corporations that don't need it. Again, investment priorities are skewed in favor of the wealthy and corporations.

It's only when we prioritize the well-being of families that we will see families thrive.

Clara Moore is a researcher and mom who lives in Newark, New Jersey. She shares her experiences in poverty as an advocate with RESULTS Educational Fund. All opinions expressed are her own and do not represent her employer. This op-ed was distributed by OtherWords.org.

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November 2024 Will Determine the Fate of Women's Reproductive Rights

Julie C. Rodríguez

When Americans go to the polls on Election Day this November, they will go knowing that the fate of every American woman's freedom to make her own health care decisions is on the line. They will also know that the horrific alternative – the chaos, confusion, and uncertainty women whose rights have been ripped away are experiencing right now – falls squarely at the feet of Donald J. Trump.

After the *Dobbs* decision, President Biden warned of the harrowing reality that would follow for Ameri-



can women, saying "with *Roe* gone, let's be very clear: The health and life of women in this nation are now at risk."

Unfortunately, he was right.

Since Trump's Supreme Court overruled *Roe v. Wade* – a fact he frequent-

ly brags about – draconian and dangerous bans have been proposed, passed, and enacted by MAGA Republicans across the country, leading to the unimaginable horror for women having to beg for the health care they need. Let's look at the facts:

- More than 1 in 3 women of reproductive age in America now live under an abortion ban.

A majority of state bans enacted after *Dobbs* have no exceptions for rape or incest.

Doctors can be charged with a felony for providing needed reproductive health care and in some states physicians could face life in prison.

Women are being turned away from emergency rooms, risking their lives.

Donald Trump has no plans to stop his all-out assault on women's reproductive rights. Beyond boasting in ads about his role in overturning *Roe* and calling for "punishment" for women who get abortions, Donald Trump and the other GOP contenders are determined to ban and criminalize abortion nationally. In fact, Trump's close advisors have published plans detailing exactly how they intend to unilaterally restrict access to abortion care – through executive action and without the help of Congress – if they regain power.

It stands in stark contrast with President Biden and Vice President Harris, who believe that the right to choose is fundamental, that medical decisions should be between a woman and her doctor, and have taken aggressive exec-

utive action to protect access to reproductive health care and safeguard patient privacy amid ongoing Republican attacks. They are the only candidates in the race for the presidency who will veto a national abortion ban to become law and are fighting to restore the protections of *Roe* – the only way to guarantee access to care for people in every state.

“

When candidates run on defending reproductive freedom, they win elections.

Faced with this choice, voters have shown again and again whose side they are on. November 2024 will be no different.

See Rodríguez on page 19

Noviembre de 2024 Determinará el Destino de los Derechos

Julie C. Rodríguez

Cuando los estadounidenses vayan a votar el día de las elecciones en noviembre de este año, lo harán sabiendo que una de las cosas que está en juego es el destino de la libertad de cada mujer estadounidense de tomar sus propias decisiones sobre su atención médica. También sabrán que la horrible alternativa – el caos, la confusión y la incertidumbre que están experimentando en este momento las mujeres cuyos derechos han sido arrebados – son consecuencia directa de las acciones de Donald Trump.

Después de la decisión de *Dobbs*, el presidente Biden advirtió sobre la desgarradora realidad que enfrentarían las mujeres estadounidenses como consecuencia y dijo que "seamos muy claros,

sin *Roe*: ahora la salud y la vida de las mujeres en esta nación están en riesgo".

Desafortunadamente, él tenía la razón.

Desde que la Corte Suprema de Trump anuló *Roe v. Wade*, un hecho del que alardea con frecuencia, los republicanos MAGA han impulsado, aprobado y promulgado prohibiciones al aborto draconianas y peligrosas en todo el país, lo que ha llevado a las mujeres de muchos estados a enfrentar el horror inimaginable de tener que mendigar por la atención médica que tanto necesitan. Veamos los hechos:

- Más de 1 de cada 3 mujeres en edad reproductiva en Estados Unidos vive ahora bajo una prohibición del aborto.

La mayoría de las prohibiciones estatales promulgadas después de

Dobbs no tienen excepciones por violación o incesto.

- Los médicos pueden ser acusados de un delito grave por brindar a sus pacientes la atención de salud reproductiva que necesitan y, en algunos estados, los médicos podrían enfrentarse a cadena perpetua.

- Las mujeres están siendo rechazadas en las salas de emergencia, lo que pone en riesgo sus vidas.

Donald Trump no tiene planes de detener su ataque frontal contra los derechos reproductivos de las mujeres. Más allá de alardear, incluso en anuncios publicitarios, sobre su papel en la revocación de *Roe* y pedir un "castigo" para las mujeres que abortan, Donald Trump y los demás contendientes republicanos están decididos a prohibir y criminalizar el aborto a nivel nacional.

De hecho, asesores cercanos de Trump han publicado planes que detallan exactamente cómo pretenden restringir unilateralmente el acceso al aborto – mediante una acción ejecutiva y sin la ayuda del Congreso – si recupera el poder.

Un gran contraste con el presidente Biden y la vicepresidenta Harris, quienes creen que el derecho a decidir de las mujeres es fundamental, que las decisiones médicas deben ser tomadas entre una mujer y su médico; y han tomado medidas ejecutivas agresivas para proteger el acceso a la atención de salud reproductiva y salvaguardar la privacidad del paciente en medio de continuos ataques republicanos. Son los únicos candidatos en la contienda por la presidencia que vetarán una prohibición nacional del aborto para con-

vertirla en ley, y están luchando para restaurar las protecciones de *Roe*; la única manera de garantizar el acceso a la atención médica para las personas en todos los estados.

“

Cuando un candidato se postula para defender la libertad reproductiva, gana las elecciones.

Al enfrentar esta elección en el pasado, los votantes ya han demostrado una y otra vez de qué lado están. En Noviembre de 2024 no será diferente.

Vea Rodríguez/Esp, página 18

3 Sisters. 1 Dead Body. And I-25.

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Cebollas

By Leonard Madrid
Directed by Jerry Ruiz

Rising Suicide Rate Among Hispanics Worries Community Leaders



A small group gathers in a room in an office inside a Dalton, Georgia, grocery store in mid-November to discuss mental health and suicide among this community's large Latino population. The suicide rate among Latinos has increased significantly in the U.S. over the past decade. / Un pequeño grupo se reúne en una oficina en un supermercado de Dalton, Georgia, a mediados de noviembre, para discutir sobre salud mental y suicidio en esta gran población latina. La tasa de suicidios entre hispanos ha aumentado significativamente en Estados Unidos en la última década. (Photo/Foto: Andy Miller/KFF Health News)

By Andy Miller and Molly Castle Work

A group from teens to seniors gathered in an office inside a grocery store, where Spanish-language food signs cater to the large Hispanic population in this northwestern Georgia city dominated by the carpet industry.

The conversation, moderated by community leader America Gruner, focused on mental health and suicide. The Tuesday night meetings draw about a dozen people, who sit on makeshift furniture and tell their often emotional stories. Gruner formed the support group in 2019 after three Latinos ages 17 to 22 died by suicide here over a two-week period.

"We couldn't wait for research," said Gruner, founder and president of the Coalición de Líderes Latinos. "We wanted to do something about it."

The suicide rate for Hispanic people in the United States has increased significantly over the past decade. The trend has community leaders worried: Even elementary school-aged Hispanic children have tried to harm themselves or expressed suicidal thoughts.

Community leaders and mental health researchers say the pandemic hit young Hispanics especially hard. Immigrant children are often expected to take more responsibility when their parents don't speak English even if they themselves aren't fluent. Many live in poorer households with some or all family members without legal residency. And cultural barriers and language may prevent many from seeking care in a mental health system that already has spotty access to services.

"Being able to talk about painful things in a language that you are comfortable with is a really specific type of healing," said Alejandra Vargas, a bilingual Spanish program coordinator for the Suicide Prevention Center at Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services in Los Angeles.

"When we answer the calls in Spanish, you can hear that relief on the other

end," she said. "That, 'Yes, they're going to understand me.'"

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's provisional data for 2022 shows a record high of nearly 50,000 suicide deaths for all racial and ethnic groups.

Grim statistics from KFF show that the rise in the suicide death rate has been more pronounced among communities of color: From 2011 to 2021, the suicide rate among Hispanics jumped from 5.7 per 100,000 people to 7.9 per 100,000, according to the data.

For Hispanic children 12 and younger, the rate increased 92.3% from 2010 to 2019, according to a study published in the Journal of Community Health.

It's a problem seen coast to coast, in both urban and rural communities.

See Suicide on page 21

Líderes Comunitarios Alarmados por el Aumento de la Tasa de Suicidios en Hispanos

Por Andy Miller y Molly Castle Work

Un grupo, desde adolescentes hasta adultos mayores, se reunió en una oficina dentro de un supermercado, donde letreros de alimentos en español apelan a la gran población hispana en esta ciudad del norte de Georgia, dominada por la industria de las alfombras.

La conversación, moderada por la líder comunitaria América Gruner, se centró en la salud mental y el suicidio. A las reuniones de los martes por la noche llegan una docena de personas que, sentadas sobre muebles transformados en improvisadas sillas, comparten sus emotivas historias.

Gruner formó el grupo de apoyo en 2019 después que tres latinos de entre 17 y 22 años se quitaran la vida en esta ciudad, en un período de dos semanas.

"No podíamos esperar a la investigación", dijo Gruner, fundadora y presidenta de la Coalición de Líderes Latinos. "Queríamos hacer algo al respecto".

La tasa de suicidio entre las personas hispanas en Estados Unidos ha



América Gruner es líder comunitaria en Dalton, Georgia, una ciudad al norte del estado con una gran comunidad latina. Gruner, quien nació en México, organiza grupos de apoyo en una oficina dentro de un supermercado, donde las personas pueden hablar en español de sus preocupaciones sobre la salud mental y el suicidio. / América Gruner is a community organizer in Dalton, Georgia, a city in the northwestern corner of the state with a large Latino population. Gruner, who was born in Mexico, set up support group gatherings in an office in a local grocery store, where people can speak in Spanish about their concerns about mental health and suicide. (Foto/Foto: Andy Miller/KFF Health News)

aumentado significativamente en la última década. La tendencia preocupa a líderes de la comunidad: incluso niños hispanos en edad escolar han intentado hacerse daño o expresado pensamientos suicidas.

Líderes comunitarios e investigadores de salud mental dicen que la

pandemia golpeó especialmente fuerte a los jóvenes hispanos. A menudo se espera que los niños inmigrantes asuman más responsabilidades cuando sus padres no hablan inglés, incluso cuando ellos mismos no manejan bien el idioma.

Vea Suicidios, página 23

The Children's Institute, a Los Angeles-based social services organization with a primarily Latino clientele, has reported a significant increase in emergency room visits and hospitalizations among young people for risky behavior and suicidal thoughts, said Diane Elias, vice president of behavioral health at the institute. She said children as young as 8 have required hospitalization for attempting to harm themselves.

In Georgia, home to a growing Hispanic population, the suicide rate increased 55% from 2018 to 2022, according to the state Department of Public Health. Ser Familia, a social services organization in metro Atlanta, said it has seen alarming numbers

El Semanario

THE WEEKLY ISSUE

LIVESTREAM



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Phoenix Hosts 'National' Women's March, As Abortion Debate Moves to Arizona

By Lillie Boudreaux

Chanting "bans off our bodies" and "my body, my choice," protesters marched on the Arizona Capitol Saturday as the National Women's March was held in Phoenix to highlight the state's role as the next battleground over abortion.

The chanting, cheering crowd of mostly women included those who fought for abortion rights as well as those who grew up knowing nothing else until the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in 2022.

“

I'm out here trying to rally women to vote, vote, vote, vote. We are going to do this at the ballot box."

Connie Campbell Henry

"I honestly can't believe that I'm doing this all over again," said Jennifer Kimball, 74, a Phoenix resident who recalled advocating for abortion rights in the 1970s when the Supreme

Court handed down Roe v. Wade, the decision that recognized abortion as part of the constitutional right to privacy.

On Saturday, Kimball – wearing a shirt with an image of a uterus with hands holding up two middle fingers – was collecting petition signatures for a ballot initiative that would amend the Arizona Constitution to protect the right to abortion.

The march came just two days before the anniversary of the ruling in Roe, which was overturned by the Supreme Court in June 2022 with its decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health. That ruling said the question of abortion rights should be left to the states.

Organizers of the Bigger Than Roe National Women's March said Arizona is the next battleground in that state-level fight, which is why the Phoenix march was designated as the national march out of more than 100 events around the country to mark the anniversary of Roe.

While some states have reverted to abortion bans and others have successfully passed abortion protections, the law in Arizona is up in the air after



Phoenix resident Connie Campbell Henry, 69, said she remembers fighting for abortion rights in the 1970s, before Roe v. Wade, and is fighting again for the next generations of women. / Connie Campbell Henry, de 69 años y residente en Phoenix, dijo que recuerda haber luchado por el derecho al aborto en la década de 1970, antes de Roe contra Wade, y que está luchando de nuevo por las próximas generaciones de mujeres. (Photo/Foto: Marnie Jordan/Cronkite News)



From left, Maureen Dowling, Mary Santy and Jennifer Kimball attended to National Women's March. Kimball said she fought for abortion rights in the '70s, and is doing so again now. / De izquierda a derecha, Maureen Dowling, Mary Santy y Jennifer Kimball asistieron a la Marcha Nacional de las Mujeres. Kimball dijo que luchó por el derecho al aborto en los años 70, y que vuelve a hacerlo ahora. (Photo/Foto: Marnie Jordan/Cronkite News)

almost two years of legal wrangling in the wake of Dobbs.

State lawmakers lowered the threshold for abortions from about 26 weeks before Dobbs to 15 weeks now, except in cases of medical emergency. But abortion opponents argue that a near-total

ban on abortion from the 19th century was never taken off the books and should be the law today – an argument the Arizona Supreme Court considered in December and could decide any day.

The proposed constitutional amendment aims to protect abortion

no matter what the court rules. Tents with petitions were set up in Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza before the march and volunteers with clipboards worked the crowd collecting signatures.

See Debate on page 20

El Semanario THE WEEKLY ISSUE



El Semanario

July 24th, 2023 | Monday, 03:19:06 PM

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Phoenix Acoge Una Marcha 'Nacional' de Mujeres, Mientras el Debate Sobre el Aborto Se Traslada a Arizona



Desde que el Tribunal Supremo dictaminó en 2022, en su sentencia Dobbs, que el derecho al aborto debe dejarse en manos de los estados, Arizona se ha convertido en un importante campo de batalla sobre esta cuestión. / Since the Supreme Court ruled in 2022, in its Dobbs decision, that abortion rights should be left to the states, Arizona has emerged as a major battleground on the issue. (Foto/Photo: Marnie Jordan/Cronkite News)



La multitud de partidarios del derecho al aborto abarrotó la Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza, frente al Capitolio estatal, para la marcha del sábado, que tuvo lugar justo dos días antes del aniversario del caso Roe contra Wade. / The crowd of abortion-rights supporters packed Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza outside the state Capitol for Saturday's march, which came just two days before the anniversary of Roe v. Wade. (Foto/Photo: Marnie Jordan/Cronkite News)

Por Lillie Boudreux

Al grito de "prohibiciones de nuestros cuerpos" y "mi cuerpo, mi elección", los manifestantes marcharon el sábado hacia el Capitolio de Arizona con motivo de la Marcha Nacional de Mujeres celebrada en Phoenix para destacar el papel del estado como próximo campo de batalla sobre el aborto.

Entre la multitud que coreaba y vitoreaba, compuesta en su mayoría por mujeres, se encontraban tanto las que lucharon por el derecho al aborto como las que crecieron sin conocer otra cosa hasta que el Tribunal Supremo anuló el caso Roe contra Wade en 2022.

"Sinceramente, no puedo creer que esté haciendo esto otra vez", dijo Jennifer Kimball, de 74 años, residente en

Phoenix, que recordaba haber defendido el derecho al aborto en los años setenta, cuando el Tribunal Supremo dictó el caso Roe contra Wade, la decisión que reconoció el aborto como parte del derecho constitucional a la intimidad.

El sábado, Kimball -que llevaba una camiseta con la imagen de un útero con las manos levantando dos dedos del medio- estaba recogiendo firmas

para una iniciativa electoral que enmendaría la Constitución de Arizona para proteger el derecho al aborto.

La marcha tuvo lugar justo dos días antes del aniversario de la sentencia Roe, anulada por el Tribunal Supremo en junio de 2022 con su decisión en el caso Dobbs contra Jackson Women's Health. Esta sentencia decía que la cuestión del derecho al aborto debía dejarse en manos de los estados.

Los organizadores de la Marcha Nacional de Mujeres Más Grande que Roe dijeron que Arizona es el próximo campo de batalla en esa lucha a nivel estatal, razón por la cual la marcha de Phoenix fue designada como la marcha nacional entre más de 100 eventos en todo el país para conmemorar el aniversario de Roe.

Estoy aquí fuera intentando reunir a las mujeres para que voten, voten, voten, voten. Vamos a hacerlo en las urnas".

Connie Campbell Henry

Mientras que algunos estados han vuelto a la prohibición del aborto y otros han aprobado con éxito protecciones contra el aborto, la ley en Arizona está en el aire tras casi dos años de disputas legales a raíz de Dobbs.

Vea Debate/Esp., página 22



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Nos Vemos Pronto Offers a Rare Glimpse of the Migrant Struggle

COLORADO

By Toni C. Frésquez

Cities across the nation are experiencing the arrival of people from other countries seeking refuge from dire conditions in their homeland.

Award-winning filmmaker Andrew Kirschenbaum and founder of *The Bleu Mind*, captured an intimate story about the plight of Venezuelans who have left their home, just to survive in *Nos Vemos Pronto*.

The League of Women Voters of Colorado, along with *The Weekly Issue/El Semanario* hosted the Colorado premiere of *Nos Vemos Pronto* on Jan. 17, at the Sie Film Center, followed by a Q&A and panel discussion with award-winning filmmaker Andrew Kirschenbaum and Dr. Luis Torres, Metropolitan State University's Deputy Provost for Academic and Student Affairs and professor of Chicana/o Studies (retired). Dr. Torres, a noted scholar, offered history and insight about the economic rise and fall of Venezuela, and how this has affected democracy in the South American country. Watch the film and discussion [here at El Semanario's livestream link](#).

The 25-minute film begins with Johanna, a Venezuelan poet, who lives in Colombia, delivering her prose that seamlessly narrates the hardships and endurance of the human spirit.

Kirschenbaum explained the intention of *Nos Vemos Pronto*, and what



Award-winning filmmaker Andrew Kirschenbaum discusses his film "Nos Vemos Pronto" at the Colorado Premiere at the Sie Film Center on January 17, 2024. / El galardonado cineasta Andrew Kirschenbaum habla de su película "Nos Vemos Pronto" en el estreno en Colorado en el Sie Film Center el 17 de enero de 2024. (Photo/Foto: TCF/El Semanario)

he hopes will be utilized by its' viewers.

"From the start I wanted it to be theirs [Venezuelans]," said Kirschenbaum. "As much as it could be theirs, that's what I wanted. And to honor those voices and those stories – a lot of them saw the camera as a portal into a world where the screen looks out into a group like you all," he said, referencing the audience. "And can transmit that message and for you guys to understand what is going on. A lot of people saw me and the camera as a sort of a beacon of hope. Like 'my story gets captured on this camera, on this film, people will know about me, they'll know about my brothers and my sisters, and they'll know about the things we went through. And maybe it won't happen to me, but somebody down the line will enact some change for my people.'

"So for me honoring that portal in my head – that's how I see it, it's a portal—this transmission of the story of a place exactly like this with people who can make a change in their own community, by watching a film like this and saying we have people like this in our community that we can help. So honoring this film in going forward is to take that with you and to be equipped with the understanding and knowing who you're around, who are your neighbors. That's what I hope for this film, I hope that it honors them."

Dr. Torres praised the film and noted that it most certainly will be used in classrooms as a form of teaching.

"*Nos Vemos Pronto* is a term used when one is separating from a loved one. But this is a completely different matter," explained Dr. Torres.



The 25-minute film begins with Johanna, a Venezuelan poet, who lives in Colombia. / La película, de 25 minutos de duración, comienza con Johanna, una poeta venezolana que vive en Colombia. (Photo/Foto: Andrew Kirschenbaum/Nos Vemos Pronto)



Venezuelans traveling through Colombia share their stories on why they had to leave their country. / Venezolanos que viajaban por Colombia comparten sus historias sobre por qué tuvieron que abandonar su país. (Photo/Foto: Andrew Kirschenbaum/Nos Vemos Pronto)

Dr. Torres discussed the root causes of the Venezuela's plight.

"When you think about Venezuela, their oil reserves, consider all the countries in the world that have oil reserves, and most countries do. The U.S. either is number 6 or 8 depending on which statistics one looks at in terms of oil reserves."

"The top three in the world [in regard to oil reserves]: Canada at 168 billion barrels, Saudi Arabia is second at 297 billion, and Venezuela is at 303 billion. The U.S. has a little over 50 billion barrels. So, Venezuela has the highest in the entire world."

"Compare that to our population versus theirs – the reserves -they should have had a great future ahead of them," stated the scholar.

Dr. Torres elaborated on the most recent political structure of Venezuela over the span of the last two decades with the election of Venezuela President Hugo Chávez in 1998, running as a socialist.

"Hugo Chávez called himself a Marxist after the election – *not before*. For example, he oversaw the drafting of a new constitution, shortly after he was elected, and that constitution gave him unprecedented control over the three branches of government.

"He was really essentially – well, I'm trying not to say dictator yet – but let's use that term. He caused a lot of turmoil in Venezuela – there were strikes for example in opposition party—an opposition group at least – developed very quickly."

"In December of 2006, he was elected again for president for a third time

In terms of numbers – in 2017, there were 30,500,000 people in Venezuela – in within just a few years – about 7.2 million people left because of what was going on."

See *Nos Vemos Pronto* on page 21



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Nos Vemos Pronto Ofrece Una Visión Inédita de la Lucha de los Inmigrantes



Dr. Luis Torres, Cineasta Andrew Kirschenbaum; Beth Hendricks, Directora Ejecutiva, Liga de Mujeres Votantes de Colorado; Katina Frierson, Directora de Desarrollo/Comunicaciones, Liga de Mujeres Votantes de Colorado; y Chris Frésquez, Editor, The Weekly Issue/El Semanario en el estreno en Colorado de "Nos Vemos Pronto" en el Sie Film Center. / Dr. Luis Torres, Filmmaker Andrew Kirschenbaum; Beth Hendricks, Executive Director, League of Women Voters of Colorado; Katina Frierson, Development/Communications Manager, League of Women Voters of Colorado; and Chris Frésquez, Publisher, The Weekly Issue/El Semanario at the Colorado Premiere of "Nos Vemos Pronto" at the Sie Film Center. (Foto/Photo/ Karen Gutiérrez for El Semanario)



Along the migrant trails in neighboring countries, there are people who stay to assist the travelers on their journey. / A lo largo de los caminos de los emigrantes en los países vecinos, hay gente que se queda para ayudar a los viajeros en su viaje. (Foto/Photo: Andrew Kirschenbaum/Nos Vemos Pronto)

tante profundo, creo", dijo el Dr. Torres. "La película es realmente fabulosa y creo que es un trabajo significativo".

"¿Por qué ha ocurrido esto?", preguntó el Dr. Torres. "Uno de los entrev

istados en la película dijo que echaba de menos a su familia, su casa, su pueblo, sus costumbres, pero sobre todo la libertad; la libertad que tenían hasta que, como él dice, llegó el 'socialismo'".

El Dr. Torres se centró en un venezolano destacado en la película,

Hay una imagen -en cuanto a por qué ocurrió el colapso- de un hombre que estaba en Colombia, se fue de Venezuela y se llevó dinero venezolano con él; está haciendo, por ejemplo, billetes, monederos y otros artículos con el dinero porque, debido a la inflación, perdió tanto valor que podía hacerlo con un billete de cincuenta dólares".

"¿Cómo se ha producido este desastre en Venezuela? Pasar de uno de los países más ricos de Sudamérica a uno de los más pobres, con la peor emigración de la historia del hemisferio occidental, más de siete millones han abandonado Venezuela en los últimos seis u ocho años, de un país con sólo 30.000 millones.

"Así que realmente es una cuestión, y para mí el trabajo que he hecho para

Vea [Nos Vemos Pronto/Esp](#), página 23

COLORADO

Por Toni C. Frésquez

Ciudades de todo el país están experimentando la llegada de personas de otros países que buscan refugio de las terribles condiciones de su patria.

El galardonado cineasta [Andrew Kirschenbaum](#) y fundador de [The Bleu Mind](#), capturó una historia íntima sobre la difícil situación de los venezolanos que han abandonado su hogar, sólo para sobrevivir en [Nos Vemos Pronto](#).

La [Liga de Mujeres Votantes de Colorado](#), junto con [The Weekly Issue/El Semanario](#), organizó el estreno en Colorado de Nos Vemos Pronto el 17 de enero en el Sie Film Center, seguido de una sesión de preguntas y respuestas y una mesa redonda con el galardonado cineasta Andrew Kirschenbaum y el Dr. Luis Torres, Vicerrector de Asuntos Académicos y Estudiantiles de la Metropolitan State University y profesor de Estudios Chicanos (jubilado). El Dr. Torres, [célebre académico](#), ofreció una visión histórica sobre el auge económico y la caída de Venezuela, y cómo esto ha afectado a la democracia en el país sudamericano. Vea la película y el debate [aquí, en la enlace livestream de El Semanario](#).

La película, de 25 minutos de duración, comienza con Johanna, una poetisa venezolana residente en Colombia, que narra en su prosa las dificultades y la resistencia del espíritu humano. El Dr. Torres elogió la película y señaló que sin duda se utilizará en las aulas como forma de enseñanza.

"Nos Vemos Pronto es un término que se utiliza cuando uno se está separando de un ser querido. Pero éste es un asunto completamente distinto", explicó el Dr. Torres.

Kirschenbaum explicó la intención de Nos Vemos Pronto, y lo que espera que sea aprovechado por sus espectadores. "El Poeta empieza diciendo que la gente busca 'vidas dignas'; eso es bas-

THE DENVER POST 9/26/23

"Then, just before midnight on Friday, the commission added a new component that environmentalists say provides an even bigger loophole for the 18 companies"

Putting Profits Before People

In the dark of night, Gov. Polis's administration approved a new regulation benefiting 18 of the Colorado's biggest polluters. Instead of holding big polluters accountable, Gov. Polis created loopholes that protect polluters who are poisoning Colorado's air.

Priorizando las ganancias antes de las personas

En la oscuridad de la noche, la administración del gobernador Polis aprobó una nueva regulación beneficiando a 18 de los mayores contribuyentes a la contaminación de Colorado. En vez de exigir responsabilidades a los contaminadores, el gobernador Polis creó lagunas reglamentarias que protegen a los contaminadores que están envenenando el aire de Colorado.

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(GEMM 2 Rule, AQCC Regulation Number 27, adopted 10/20/2023)

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Gob. Polis Priorizando a los contaminadores, no a las personas.



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Congresswoman Caraveo Introduces Bill to Expand Capacity for Abortion Services

COLORADO

Congresswoman Yadira Caraveo, M.D. (CO-08), the only doctor to represent Colorado in Congress, announced her latest action on Jan. 22, to protect women's access to abortion services and reproductive health care by introducing the *Abortion Care Enhancement and Support Services (ACCESS) Act of 2024* with Reps. Judy Chu (CA-28), Veronica Escobar (TX-16), and Sara Jacobs (CA-51). This legislation will establish a grant program to increase capacity to provide abortion services and other reproductive health care services for millions of women nationwide.

"As a doctor, I never thought that the patients I cared for in the clinic would have their freedom taken away by the government. The interference of extremist judges between a woman and her doctor is causing increasing demand in hospitals and clinics in Colorado. I am proud to introduce the ACCESS Act of 2024 to ensure that Coloradans have the freedom to access abortion services without increased wait times, and are able to provide care for out-of-state patients," Caraveo stated.

The ACCESS Act would carry out a grant program to increase capacity



Congresswoman Yadira Caraveo, M.D. (center, in red) hosted a roundtable discussion January 22nd, on abortion care, healthcare accessibility, and to announce her latest bill, the Abortion Care Capacity Enhancement and Support Services (ACCESS) Act. (Photo: Office of Rep. Caraveo)

to provide abortion services and other sexual and reproductive care in states where abortion is still legal. Eligible entities (e.g. hospitals, clinics, etc.) in states where abortion services are legal out of the permissible exceptions would be able to apply for funding to expand their capacity to provide abortion care to accommodate both their in-state residents and out-of-state individuals coming to seek care.

Activities under this grant will include:

- Expanding the facility to include more exam, operating, and recovery rooms;

- Purchasing medical supplies to provide reproductive and sexual health care;
- Administering telehealth services, including audio, text, and video messaging;
- Contracting or hiring necessary staff and personnel;
- Training programs to increase support staff;
- Creating accurate and educational patient resources;
- Interpretation and translating services;
- Referrals and counseling; and
- Recovery care

"After the *Dobbs* decision, states across the nation implemented partial and complete abortion bans—meaning people's zip code dictates the accessibility and safety of their reproductive rights. When patients who live in states with restrictive laws travel hundreds or thousands of miles to receive abortion care where it remains accessible, it can put strain on resources and clinics in areas like my district in California. It is absolutely crucial that we offer support to facilities grappling with increased demand, and our ACCESS Act legislation accomplishes just that," Congresswoman Chu stated.

"After the Supreme Court stripped our constitutional right to abortion, clinics in states like California have been overwhelmed with the influx of new patients with little additional resources and funding. Some clinics in my state have even received 4 times as many abortion patients since the fall of *Roe*. That's why I'm proud to join this strong coalition of women to introduce the ACCESS Act to expand the reach of clinics' abortion services and sexual and reproductive health care so they can serve even more people in need," said Congresswoman Jacobs.

"Since the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, our reproductive freedoms have been under constant attack by Republicans across the country," said Congresswoman Escobar. "The women of my home state of Texas have felt the devastating consequences of these draconian measures and how burdensome it has become to leave the state to get critical care. My Democratic colleagues and I remain committed as ever to protecting women's rights to make their own reproductive health decisions, no matter where they live. I am proud to co-lead the Abortion Care Capacity Enhancement and Support Services (ACCESS) Act of 2024, which would improve the resources and capacity of clinics around the country that have stepped up to provide essential health services to women who are denied care in their own state."

Since the overturn of *Roe v. Wade* in June 2022, obstacles to access abortion services have grown increasingly more common as clinics have stopped offering abortion services or have closed their doors altogether. In the first 100 days after *Roe* was overturned, over 60 clinics in 15 states stopped providing abortion services. Additionally, roughly half of U.S. states now have laws that restrict or ban abortion services.

While abortions have decreased in the states that restrict access, they have significantly increased in states where abortion care is more readily available. These states have seen high influxes of out-of-state patients, which has caused increased delays in accessing abortion services and other sexual and reproductive health care services. In the Myers Abortion Appointment Availability Survey, 11 states have reported appointment wait times of more than five busi-

ness days, and four states had wait times of over a week. Health care facilities nationwide are experiencing burdens on their capacity to provide comprehensive abortion services and reproductive health care.

Prior to the Supreme Court decision, clinics across Colorado were already overbooked, creating weeks-long wait times for appointments. Following the decision, Colorado clinics projected an 80% increase in abortion care patient volume. All clinics across the state saw an increase in out-of-state patients around the 12-week stage of pregnancy. While patient volume has slowly decreased, many clinics are still inundated by the influx of patients, which has contributed to extreme burnout and stress among reproductive health care providers. Congresswoman Caraveo is committed to ensuring Coloradans have the freedom to access abortion care and the ACCESS Act would help decrease the wait times they are experiencing by supporting local clinics and hospitals.

"As countless patients are being forced to travel to access abortion, providers are on the front lines of this public health crisis and are navigating unimaginable challenges at the hands of anti-abortion lawmakers in states around the country. We are grateful to Rep. Caraveo for her work to protect access to reproductive health care. This bill is an important step towards ensuring abortion providers can deliver essential time-sensitive health care to people who need it," said Karen Stone, Vice President, Public Policy & Government Relations, Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

“

As a doctor, I never thought that the patients I cared for in the clinic would have their freedom taken away by the government.

Congresswoman Yadira Caraveo

The ACCESS Act would bolster the capacity of health care facilities nationwide to ensure that both state residents and out-of-state individuals receive access to comprehensive and timely abortion services and reproductive health care. The legislation is currently endorsed by the following organizations: Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Center for Reproductive Rights, Reproductive Freedom for All, All* Above All Action Fund, Power to Decide, Physicians for Reproductive Health, National Council of Jewish Women, National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum, In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda, National Partnership for Women and Families, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights.

See Caraveo on page 19

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A woman wearing glasses and a blue jacket is talking on a phone. Logos for ACO, the Colorado state seal, and CREDIT are visible.

Reproductive Justice Coalition Launches Campaign to Put Abortion Access in Colorado Constitution



Bianka Emerson, the president of Colorado Black Women for Political Action, speaks during the campaign kickoff event for Initiative 89 at the Colorado Capitol in Denver on January 22, 2024. (Photo: Sara Wilson/Colorado Newsline)

COLORADO

By Sara Wilson

Advocates for reproductive justice launched their campaign Monday to put the right to abortion access in the Colorado Constitution, on what would have been the 51st anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision.

The backers of Initiative 89 have until the end of April to collect the approximately 125,000 signatures necessary to make it on the November ballot. In a kickoff rally on the Colorado Capitol steps, organizers asked for volunteers to help with the effort.

Similar kickoff events are scheduled this week in Pueblo, Grand Junction, Boulder, Greeley and Montrose.

"We will make sure that the fabric of this state, the Constitution on which it was built, the document that validates us as a state, guarantees a woman's right to protect her health," said Bianka Emerson, the president of Colorado Black Women for Political Action.

Colorado already has strong abortion protections in place and is an island of protected care as surrounding states restrict access following the Dobbs v. Jackson decision from the U.S. Supreme Court, which in 2022 overturned the constitutional right to abortion.

In 2022, Democratic lawmakers passed the Reproductive Health Equity Act to protect abortion in state statute. Last year, Democrats passed another package of bills to protect doctors who perform abortions on patients who travel from states with abortion bans, clamp down on clinics that offer so-called "abortion reversal" procedures, and require large employers to offer abortion coverage in their health care plans, with an exemption for public employees.

See **Reproductive Justice** on page 22



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Lawmakers and Tenants Call on Governor to Make Rent Control a Priority

NEW MÉXICO

By Patrick Lohmann

The rally in front of the Roundhouse on Saturday was in support of rent control – a policy that caps how much a landlord can raise rent each year – as a tool to address the state's housing affordability crisis.

The group wants Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham to add the proposal to her call this session, letting lawmakers debate and pass a bill that would revoke a 33-year-old state law that prohibits cities and towns from adopting local rent control ordinances.

If a measure were to be introduced this session, supporters argue the ban would "expand democracy" and let cities decide for themselves the best way to make housing affordable, said Anna Lee DeSaulniers, an organizer with Peoples Housing Project, a group that helped organize the rally in Santa Fe on Saturday.

A 2022 analysis by the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority found that nearly 220,000 households in the state spend more than 30% of their income on housing costs. Across New Mexico's cities and counties, average rent for a two-bedroom apartment



Em Bird-Brown, an organizer with the Peoples Housing Project, leads tenant advocates in a chant in front of the Roundhouse on Saturday. The group is calling on the governor to allow the Legislature this session to strike down a 33-year-old law that prohibits cities from adopting rent control ordinances. / Em Bird-Brown, organizadora del Peoples Housing Project, dirige a los defensores de los inquilinos en un canto frente a la Roundhouse el sábado. El grupo pide al gobernador que permita a la Legislatura derogar en esta sesión una ley de 33 años de antigüedad que prohíbe a las ciudades adoptar ordenanzas de control de alquileres. (Photo/Foto: Patrick Lohmann / Source NM)

has increased by a third since 2017, according to a review of federal Housing and Urban Development department data.

On Jan. 12, eight senators and four representatives, all Democrats, sent a letter to the governor asking her to consider issuing an executive message that would allow the Legislature to take up a bill revoking the ban on local

rent control ordinances. No legislation has yet been introduced, but lawmakers have until Jan. 31, the final day to submit new bills during the 2024 session.

The 30-day session is typically limited only to budget or appropriations bills, but the governor can put non-budget items on the agenda if she chooses.

Sen. Brenda McKenna (D-Corrales) spoke at the rally in favor of revoking the ban. She also introduced legislation last session that, if it had passed, would go a step further by imposing a statewide ban on rent increases more than 10% over a 12-month period.

"It's a start," McKenna said of this year's push to allow cities control over rent control ordinances. "But for me, it'd be so much easier for our fellow New Mexicans to know that there is rent stabilization and they don't have to research which city or municipality doesn't have such limits."

A Legislative Finance Committee analysis of McKenna's proposed statewide rent control bill last year said it was "unknown" whether the policy would reduce homelessness or affect the quality or supply of rental housing.

The bill received pushback from state groups advocating for landlords

and realtors, who said the caps would make it less likely investors or developers would build new housing here. The state lacks 32,000 housing units affordable to those who make less than 30% of the area median income, according to the New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority analysis.

The governor has already allowed debate on one housing affordability proposal this session, even though it's a 30-day session.

That bill would bar landlords from refusing to rent to tenants who pay rent with the help of government-subsidized vouchers.

Lujan Grisham is also asking the Legislature to approve \$250 million in low-interest loans to spur private-sector home construction, plus another \$250 million to help new homeowners pay their down payments or other costs.

Patrick Lohmann is a Reporter with Source New Mexico. This article is republished from Source New Mexico under a Creative Commons license.

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Legisladores e Inquilinos Piden al Gobernador que Haga del Control de los Alquileres Una Prioridad

NEW MÉXICO

Por Patrick Lohmann

La manifestación frente a la Roundhouse el sábado fue en apoyo del control de alquiler - una política que limita cuánto un propietario puede aumentar el alquiler cada año - como una herramienta para abordar la crisis de asequibilidad de la vivienda del estado.

El grupo quiere Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham para añadir la propuesta a su convocatoria de este período de sesiones, dejando a los legisladores debatir y aprobar un proyecto de ley que revocaría una ley estatal de 33 años que prohíbe a las ciudades y pueblos de la adopción de ordenanzas locales de control de alquiler.

Si se introdujera una medida en esta sesión, los partidarios argumentan que la prohibición "ampliaría la democracia" y permitiría a las ciudades decidir por sí mismas la mejor manera de hacer que la vivienda sea asequible, dijo Anna Lee DeSaulniers, organizadora de Peoples Housing Project, un grupo que ayudó a orga-

nizar la manifestación en Santa Fe el sábado.

Un análisis de 2022 de la Autoridad Financiera Hipotecaria de Nuevo México encontró que casi 220,000 hogares en el estado gastan más del 30% de sus ingresos en costos de vivienda. En todas las ciudades y condados de Nuevo México, el alquiler promedio de un apartamento de dos dormitorios ha aumentado en un tercio desde 2017, según una revisión de los datos del departamento federal de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano.

El 12 de enero, ocho senadores y cuatro representantes, todos demócratas, enviaron una carta a la gobernadora pidiéndole que considere emitir un mensaje ejecutivo que permita a la Legislatura retomar un proyecto de ley que revoque la prohibición de las ordenanzas locales de control de alquileres. Aún no se ha presentado ningún proyecto de ley, pero los legisladores tienen hasta el 31 de enero, último día para presentar nuevos proyectos de ley durante el período de sesiones de 2024.

La sesión de 30 días se limita normalmente sólo a los proyectos de ley de presupuesto o asignaciones, pero el gobernador puede poner temas no

presupuestarios en el orden del día si lo desea.

La senadora Brenda McKenna (D-Corrales) habló en la manifestación a favor de revocar la prohibición. Ella también introdujo la legislación en la última sesión que, si se hubiera aprobado, iría un paso más allá mediante la imposición de una prohibición en todo el estado de los aumentos de alquiler de más del 10% en un período de 12 meses.

"Es un comienzo", dijo McKenna sobre el impulso de este año para permitir a las ciudades el control sobre las ordenanzas de control de alquileres. "Pero para mí, sería mucho más fácil para nuestros conciudadanos de Nuevo México saber que hay estabilización de alquileres y no tienen que investigar qué ciudad o municipio no tiene tales límites".

Un análisis del Comité Legislativo de Finanzas de la propuesta de ley de McKenna de control de alquileres en todo el estado el año pasado dijo que era "desconocido" si la política reduciría la falta de vivienda o afectaría a la calidad o la oferta de viviendas de alquiler.

El proyecto de ley recibió el rechazo de los grupos estatales que abogan por los propietarios y agentes inmobiliarios,



Ryley Garduño, de 8 años, con chaqueta rosa, y Ángela Martínez, de 11, sostienen carteles en la manifestación por el control de alquileres del sábado. / Ryley Garduño, 8, in pink jacket, and Angela Martinez, 11, hold signs at the rent control rally Saturday. (Foto/ Photo: Patrick Lohmann / Source NM)

liarios, quienes dijeron que los límites harían menos probable que los inversores o promotores construyeran nuevas viviendas aquí. El estado carece de 32.000 unidades de vivienda asequibles para aquellos que ganan menos del 30% de la renta media de la zona, de acuerdo con el análisis de la Autoridad Financiera Hipotecaria de Nuevo México.

El gobernador ya ha permitido el debate sobre una propuesta de asequibilidad de la vivienda en esta sesión, a pesar de que es una sesión de 30 días.

Ese proyecto de ley prohibiría a los propietarios negarse a alquilar a los inquilinos que pagan el alquiler con la ayuda de vales subvencionados por el gobierno.

Luján Grisham también está pidiendo a la Legislatura que apruebe 250 millones de dólares en préstamos a bajo interés para estimular la construcción de viviendas en el sector privado, además de otros 250 millones de dólares para ayudar a los nuevos propietarios a pagar sus cuotas iniciales u otros costos.

Patrick Lohmann es reportero de Source New Mexico. Este artículo ha sido publicado por Source New Mexico bajo una licencia Creative Commons.

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Biden, Harris Vow to Restore Protections for Abortion Rights as 2024 Campaign Launches

By Jennifer Shutt

President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris moved abortion access to the forefront of their reelection bid Tuesday by making it the centerpiece of their first joint campaign rally of the 2024 election cycle.

“

Since Roe was overturned, tens of millions of Americans in red states and blue marched to the polls in defense of fundamental freedoms.”

Vice President Kamala Harris

“With your voice, with your power, with your vote, we can restore the protections that have been around for over 50 years under Roe v. Wade,” Biden said to a crowd at George Mason University in Manassas, Virginia, on the same day voters were going to the polls in the New Hampshire primary.

“Give me a Democratic House of Representatives and give me a bigger Democratic Senate,” he said. “And we will pass a new law restoring the protections of Roe v. Wade, and I will sign it immediately.”

Biden spoke on the stage of the Hylton Performing Arts Center, surrounded by red-and-blue signs that read “Defend Choice” and “Restore Roe.”

Protesters calling for a ceasefire in the war between Israel and Hamas repeatedly interrupted the rally, though Biden-Harris supporters in the audience chanted “four more years” or “let’s go Joe” in an attempt to drown out the nearly dozen people who took turns throughout the speech criticizing the president.

One protester shouted, “How many kids have you killed?” and another yelled, “Israel kills two mothers every hour,” according to White House pool reports.

Warnings of national abortion ban

Harris, speaking before Biden, said that another Republican administration in the White House would try to implement a nationwide ban on abortions,

a new possibility given the Supreme Court’s actions in 2022.

“In the 19 months since, in states across our nation, extremists have proposed and passed laws that criminalize doctors and punish women — laws that make no exception even for rape and incest,” Harris said.

“And let us all agree, one does not have to abandon their faith or deeply held beliefs to agree the government should not be telling her what to do with her body,” Harris added.

Amanda Zurawski, a Texas woman who has filed a lawsuit against the state, told the rally of how after “grueling” fertility treatments she learned when she was 18 weeks pregnant that her cervix had prematurely dilated and her membranes had ruptured.

“We were, with 100% certainty, going to lose our baby girl. We were devastated,” Zurawski said. “What I needed at that point was an abortion, so I could safely and with dignity, deliver my daughter. I needed to begin the healing process, both physically and emotionally. But unfortunately, this was post-Roe Texas.”

The abortion laws in Texas meant she would have to wait until she was



President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris moved abortion access to the forefront of their reelection bid on Jan. 23, by making it the centerpiece of their first joint campaign rally of the 2024 election cycle. (Photo/Foto: Joe Biden for President/fb)

sick enough for her life to be considered endangered before a doctor could provide an abortion. That happened after three days and going into septic shock, Zurawski said.

“What I went through was nothing short of barbaric and it didn’t need to happen, but it did because of Donald Trump,” Zurawski said. “Over and over again, Donald Trump brags about killing Roe v. Wade. It is unthinkable to me that anyone could cheer on these abortion bans that nearly took my life.”

Dobbs decision aftermath

The Supreme Court first recognized a constitutional right to abortion in 1973 during the landmark Roe v. Wade case that has been a fulcrum of American politics ever since.

The nine justices on the high court reaffirmed the right to end a pregnancy during their 1992 decision in Casey v. Planned Parenthood.

But the court, including three justices nominated by Trump, overturned

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Democratic Governors Ask Congress for Immigration Aid to Reverse Years of ‘Inaction’

By Ariana Figueroa

Nine Democratic governors sent a letter to President Joe Biden and congressional leaders Monday, requesting federal aid and urging changes to immigration law as their states take in an overwhelming number of asylum-seekers.

“The sustained arrival of individuals seeking asylum and requiring shelter and assistance, due to lack of Congressional action on infrastructure and policies, can only be addressed with federal organizational support and funding to meet the public safety and humanitarian needs of our local communities,” the letter led by New York Gov. Kathy Hochul read.

The letter was also signed by Govs. Katie Hobbs of Arizona, Gavin Newsom of California, Jared Polis of Colorado, JB Pritzker of Illinois, Wes Moore of Maryland, Maura Healey of Massachusetts, Michelle Lujan Grisham of New Mexico and Phil Murphy of New Jersey. It was [first reported](#) by *The New York Times*.

New York City has taken in 168,000 migrants in the past 18 months, according to Democratic Mayor Eric Adams. Texas Republican Gov. Greg Abbott has added to the strain in major Democratic-run cities by placing migrants on buses and planes to such cities, often without warning local officials.

“While the Biden Administration has made important progress in managing immigration at the Southwest border, the number of migrants arriving in states and cities seeking emergency shelter continues to increase at record pace,” the letter stated. “States and cities have spent billions to address inaction by Congress and match these challenges with solutions for our state and local economies.”

A bipartisan trio of Senate negotiators — Sens. James Lankford, Republican of Oklahoma, Kyrsten Sinema, independent of Arizona, and Chris Murphy, Democrat of Connecticut — is hammering out the final details of changes to immigration policy as part

See [Aid](#) on page 17

Rights

the nationwide right to an abortion in 2022 in the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization decision, when the conservative justices wrote, "the authority to regulate abortion is returned to the people and their elected representatives."

Conservative state legislatures have moved to implement strict restrictions on abortion access and in some cases approved bans in the nearly two years since that ruling, leading to a patchwork of access and confusion among medical professionals.

The same Supreme Court is expected to hear two additional cases on abortion access this year: one regarding pregnancy termination in emergency medical circumstances and another concerning access to a pharmaceutical used in medication abortions and miscarriage care.

Both of those rulings are expected to come out this summer, just months before voters will head to the polls in November to decide control of the White House, House and Senate.

'He intended for them to overturn Roe'

Speaking in front of the crowd in Virginia on Tuesday, Harris noted that Trump "handpicked" the three Supreme Court justices he nominated because he "intended for them to overturn Roe, he intended for them to take your freedoms."

"He is the architect of this health care crisis and he is not done," Harris said. "And the extremists are not done."

Harris noted that since the Supreme Court overturned the nationwide right to abortion, Democrats and Republicans in several states have placed protections on abortion and reproductive access into their state constitutions by placing the issue directly on the ballot.

"Since Roe was overturned, tens of millions of Americans in red states and blue marched to the polls in defense of fundamental freedoms," she said. "The voice of the people has been heard and it will be heard."

Biden said that Trump was counting on voters to stop caring or vote on

issues other than reproductive rights and abortion access during the election. But he called on Americans not to forget the differences between Democrats and Republicans on abortion and other issues.

"I believe 2024 is going to be the most important election we've had since 1860," Biden said, referring to the election of President Abraham Lincoln before the Civil War.

"The reasons are clear. Democracy is on the ballot. Freedom is on the ballot," Biden added. "Like the freedom to choose; the freedom to vote; the freedom to love who you want; the freedom to go to work, go to school, go to your house of worship without fear of being gunned down by a weapon of war."

Jennifer Shutt is a Senior Reporter for States Newsroom. This article is republished from Colorado Newsline under a Creative Commons license.

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Aid

Proposals being floated include making changes to asylum law that would set a higher bar for migrants to claim asylum and curbing the White House's use of its parole authority that it has used to grant temporary protections to migrants from certain countries and others at the U.S. southern border.

The governors asked that Congress grant Biden's request to include in a supplemental funding bill \$4.4 billion for a federal migration strategy and \$1.4 billion in aid to states and local governments dealing with an influx of migrants.

The governors are requesting Congress and the White House include "federal coordination and decompression at the southern and northern borders; federal funding for both border and interior states and cities receiving new arrivals; and a serious commitment to modernizing our immigration system in the United States."

Of the \$100 billion in supplemental funding, about \$14 billion would go toward U.S. border security, and the rest would be for aid to Ukraine, Israel and Taiwan. Senators have not released bill text on the immigration policy, but the proposals they are considering would mark the most significant change to immigration law in the last 30 years.

"With ongoing conflicts around the world, global migration is at a historic high," according to the letter. "States and cities cannot indefinitely respond to the subsequent strain on state and local resources without Congressional action."

The letter comes after [Biden said in a speech](#) to a bipartisan group of more than 300 mayors at a conference in Washington, D.C., that he is supportive of "significant policy changes" to asylum law — a stark reversal from his administration's earlier position to protect asylum law.

Ariana Figueroa is a Reporter for States Newsroom. States Newsroom is a national nonprofit news organization. This article is republished from States Newsroom under a Creative Commons license.

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Los estadounidenses están de nuestro lado en la lucha por proteger de los derechos reproductivos

• Los ataques de Donald Trump y los republicanos MAGA a la libertad reproductiva están significativamente fuera de sintonía con los votantes que decidirán esta elección:

• Una mayoría abrumadora de adultos estadounidenses dicen que se oponen a la decisión de revocar *Roe*.

• Por un margen de 2 a 1, los estadounidenses prefieren el enfoque del partido Demócrata en cuanto a la política del aborto que el del partido Republicano.

• El apoyo al acceso al aborto está alcanzando niveles récord independientemente de los partidos, incluso entre los independientes.

• 9 de cada 10 estadounidenses apoyan el acceso al aborto en caso de violación o incesto, o cuando la salud de la mujer está en riesgo.

• El 80% de los votantes se opone a una prohibición nacional del aborto, incluido el 65% de los republicanos y el 83% de los independientes.

El mensaje del presidente Biden y la vicepresidenta Harris, de que el derecho de las mujeres a tomar sus propias decisiones es fundamental y que las decisiones médicas deben ser tomadas entre una mujer y su médico, tiene un apoyo abrumador de la mayoría de los estadounidenses sobre el tema:

• Una revisión exhaustiva de las encuestas sobre el aborto encontró

que, a través de encuestadores y décadas, la creencia de que “la elección [de abortar] debe dejarse en manos de la mujer y su médico” se ha mantenido estable desde la década de 1970, con una mayoría de los estadounidenses a favor de esa posición.

• 3 de cada 5 estadounidenses apoyan que el Congreso apruebe una legislación que consagre las protecciones de *Roe* como ley federal.

• Y los derechos reproductivos son un tema prioritario para partes clave de la coalición ganadora de la campaña Biden-Harris:

• En 2022, el aborto fue un tema importante para la mayoría de los votantes demócratas.

• Durante las elecciones de mitad de período, el tema del aborto fue considerado como la prioridad número uno de los votantes jóvenes.

• El 80% de las votantes entre 18 y 49 años, el 70% de los votantes latinos y el 78% de los votantes afroamericanos se oponen a la revocación de Roe.

• El 85% de las mujeres independientes dice que el aborto será el tema más importante o uno de los más importantes para determinar su voto.

Cuando el derecho al aborto está en la boleta electoral, los demócratas ganan

El tema de proteger la libertad reproductiva no sólo es tremadamente popular entre los votantes: se está traduciendo en éxito electoral. Cuando un candidato se postula para defender

la libertad reproductiva, gana las elecciones.

Desde *Dobbs*, el aborto ha estado directamente en la boleta electoral siete veces: en 2022, con medidas electorales en Kansas, Michigan, Kentucky, California, Vermont y Montana y en 2023 en un referéndum sobre una enmienda constitucional en Ohio. Las siete veces, los votantes, tanto en los estados rojos como en los azules, votaron rotundamente para proteger sus derechos.

La protección de los derechos reproductivos ha generado importantes victorias legislativas incluso cuando no está directamente en la boleta electoral. Durante las elecciones de mitad de período de 2022:

• Un análisis externo arrojó que los derechos reproductivos jugaron un “papel importante en la motivación de votantes clave que probablemente contribuyeron a un desempeño mejor de lo esperado del Partido Demócrata”.

• En Michigan, las encuestas mostraron que el aborto fue el tema número uno para los votantes en las elecciones para gobernador. Los derechos reproductivos impulsaron a la gobernadora Whitmer a la reelección y llevaron a los demócratas a recuperar ambas cámaras de la legislatura estatal, estableciendo una trifecta demócrata en el estado por primera vez en 40 años.

• En Pensilvania, donde las encuestas revelaron que el aborto era el principal tema para los votantes, los demócratas ganaron la gobernación,

el Senado, los tres escaños indecisos en la Cámara de Representantes e incluso tomaron el control de la Cámara estatal por primera vez en más de una década.

Y en las elecciones de 2023 y principios de este año, la protección de los derechos reproductivos siguió siendo un tema prioritario, lo que generó victorias en todo el país:

• Los demócratas superaron todas las expectativas en las elecciones especiales de 2023: recuperaron los escaños del Senado estatal y los escaños en el Congreso en Virginia, ganaron abrumadoramente la muy disputada contienda por la Corte Suprema estatal de Wisconsin y rechazaron iniciativas electorales en Ohio. Todas estas contiendas tenían en común, como enfoque central, la protección del derecho al aborto y la lucha contra las prohibiciones del aborto por parte de los republicanos MAGA.

• Durante las elecciones de noviembre de 2023, los votantes de todos los rincones del país rechazaron la agenda extremista antiaborto de los republicanos. En Virginia, el gobernador republicano Glenn Youngkin hizo de las elecciones un referéndum directo basándose en su creencia de que los republicanos podían “liderar” en el tema del aborto y los demócratas aún así triunfaron, conservando el Senado e incluso recuperando la Cámara.

• Y apenas en la semana pasada, los demócratas recuperaron el distrito 35 de la Cámara de Representantes del Estado de Florida, basándose en un mensaje de proteger los derechos reproductivos, distrito en el que Ron DeSantis ganó por 13 puntos en 2022.

El aborto será un tema clave en todos los estados clave este año

De cara a las elecciones generales de 2024, el derecho al aborto sigue siendo una prioridad destacada para nuestros votantes. Encuestas recientes muestran que:

• Tres de cada cuatro votantes dicen que el aborto será un tema importante para ellos en las elecciones de 2024.

• El 58% de los votantes en estados clave dice que la posición del Partido Republicano sobre el aborto es demasiado extremista.

• El 73% de los votantes independientes dicen que es menos probable que apoyen a candidatos que apoyan restringir el acceso al aborto.

Y de cara a noviembre, el aborto volverá a estar en la boleta electoral:

• **En Arizona:** gracias a Donald Trump, actualmente está en vigor una prohibición sin excepciones por violación o incesto, y la Corte Suprema del estado decidirá si una prohibición total entrará en vigor a petición de los republicanos. Ahora mismo se están recogiendo firmas para incluir en la boleta electoral una enmienda sobre derechos reproductivos.

• **En Georgia:** ha estado en vigor una prohibición casi total del aborto desde que Donald Trump allanó el camino para que la Corte Suprema anulara *Roe*.

En Florida: Gracias a Donald Trump y Ron DeSantis, la Corte Suprema del Estado de Florida está decidiendo si implementa o no una prohibición del aborto sin excepciones por violación o incesto, y la prohibición casi total de Ron DeSantis podría entrar en vigor poco después. Mientras tanto, los organizadores en favor de los derechos reproductivos han dado el siguiente paso para alcanzar el umbral de recolección de firmas para incluir una enmienda sobre la libertad reproductiva en la boleta electoral.

En Michigan: Donald Trump representa una amenaza directa a las libertades reproductivas de los habitantes de Michigan. A pesar de que los votantes protegieron decisivamente su derecho a la atención de la salud reproductiva en las elecciones de mitad de período, la prohibición nacional de Trump reemplazaría cualquier protección a nivel estatal.

En Nevada: se están recogiendo firmas ahora mismo para incluir en la boleta electoral una enmienda sobre derechos reproductivos, de modo que los votantes puedan proteger sus libertades de la amenaza de la prohibición nacional de Donald Trump.

En Carolina del Norte: Gracias a Donald Trump, los habitantes de Carolina del Norte viven bajo una prohibición restrictiva del aborto.

En Wisconsin: los votantes ya han experimentado la inseguridad jurídica y el caos causado por Donald Trump. Ahora, a pesar de que en el estado se brindan servicios de aborto, los planes de Donald Trump de prohibir el acceso al aborto en todo el país amenazan directamente los derechos de los votantes de Wisconsin.

Conclusión

Con todo esto en mente, la campaña Biden-Harris pasará los próximos diez meses destacando el impacto que las prohibiciones al aborto de Donald Trump en los estados están teniendo en las mujeres y los proveedores; y recordando a los votantes exactamente lo que está en juego para la libertad reproductiva en 2024.

En palabras del propio presidente Biden: “No creo que... los republicanos que durante décadas han impulsado su agenda extremista tengan idea de cuán poderosas son las mujeres estadounidenses. Pero están a punto de descubrirlo”.

Julie C. Rodríguez, directora de la campaña Biden-Harris 2024

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Rodríguez

Americans Are on Our Side on Protecting Reproductive Rights

Donald Trump and MAGA Republicans' attacks on reproductive freedom are wildly out of step with the voters that decide this election:

- An overwhelming majority of U.S. adults say they oppose the decision to overturn *Roe*.

• By a 2 to 1 margin, Americans prefer the Democratic Party's approach to abortion policy than the Republican approach.

• Support for abortion access is reaching record levels across party lines – including among independents.

• 9 out of 10 Americans support abortion access in the event of rape or incest, or when a woman's health is at risk.

• 80% of voters oppose a national abortion ban, including 65% of Republicans and 83% of independents.

President Biden and Vice President Harris' message, that the right to choose is fundamental and that medical decisions should be between a woman and her doctor, is exactly where the majority of Americans are on the issue:

• A comprehensive review of abortion polling found that, across pollsters and decades, the belief that "the choice [to have an abortion] should be left up to the woman and her doctor" has remained stable since the 1970s, with a majority of all Americans in favor of that position.

• 3 in 5 Americans support Congress passing legislation that would enshrine the protections of *Roe* into federal law.

• And reproductive rights are a top issue for key parts of the Biden-Harris winning coalition:

• In 2022, abortion was a major issue for the majority of Democratic voters.

• During the midterms, young voters ranked abortion as their number one issue.

• 80% of female voters ages 18-49, 78% of Black voters, and 70% of Latino voters, oppose the overturning of Roe.

• 85% of independent women say abortion will be either the most important or one of the most important issues in determining their vote.

When Abortion Rights Are on the Ballot, Democrats Win

The issue of protecting reproductive freedoms isn't just wildly popular with voters – it's translating into electoral success. When candidates run on defending reproductive freedom, they win elections.

Since *Dobbs*, abortion has been directly on the ballot seven times – with ballot measures in Kansas, Michigan, Kentucky, California, Vermont, and Montana in 2022, and a referendum vote on a constitutional amendment in Ohio in 2023. All seven times, voters in Red and Blue states alike resoundingly voted to protect their rights.

Protecting reproductive rights has driven major legislative victories even

when it's not directly on the ballot. During the 2022 midterms:

- Outside analysis found that reproductive rights played a "significant role in motivating key voting blocs that likely contributed to the Democratic party's stronger-than-expected performance."

• In Michigan, polls showed that abortion was the number one issue for voters in the gubernatorial election. Reproductive rights propelled Gov. Whitmer to re-election, and led Democrats to flip both chambers of the state legislature, establishing a Democratic trifecta in the state for the first time in 40 years.

• In Pennsylvania, where exit polling found that abortion was the top issue for voters, Democrats won the gubernatorial, U.S. Senate, all three swing U.S. House seats, and even took control of the state House for the first time in more than a decade.

• And in elections in 2023 and early this year, protecting reproductive rights has remained a top issue, driving wins across the country:

• Democrats overperformed in special elections in 2023 – flipping state senate seats and holding congressional seats in Virginia, overwhelmingly winning Wisconsin's highly-contested state Supreme Court race, and rejecting tricky ballot initiatives in Ohio. In common across all these races was a central focus on protecting abortion rights and fighting against MAGA abortion bans.

• During the 2023 November elections, voters in every corner of the country rejected Republicans' extreme anti-abortion agenda. In Virginia, Republican Governor Glenn Youngkin made the election a direct referendum on his belief that Republicans could "lead" on abortion and Democrats still triumphed, retaining the Senate and even flipping the House.

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This legislation is co-sponsored by Reps. Eleanor Holmes Norton, Rashida Tlaib, Jahana Hayes, Susan Wild, Gerald Connolly, Andrea Salinas, Jan Schakowsky, Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick, Dina Titus, Angie Craig, Jasmine Crockett, Nydia Velázquez, Mark Takano, Jennifer McClellan, Alma Adams, Barbara Lee, Robert Garcia, Deborah Ross, Bonnie Watson Coleman, Kathy Castor, Nikema Williams, Melanie Stansbury, David Trone, Maxwell Frost, Julia Brownley, Brittany Pettersen, Lizzie Fletcher, Sean Casten, Summer Lee, Colin Allred, Haley Stevens, Abigail Spanberger, Danny Davis, Grace Meng, Susie Lee, Lois Frankel, Kevin Mullin, Dan Goldman, Adam Smith, Lori Trahan, Juan Vargas, John Larson, Frederica S. Wilson, Hank Johnson Jr., Jared Moskowitz, Diana DeGette, Jill Tokuda, Sylvia Garcia, Nettie Barragán, Ro Khanna, Madeleine Dean, Norma Torres, Adriano Espaillat, Emilia Sykes, Eric Sorenson, Delia Ramirez, Glenn Ivey, André Carson, Steve Cohen, and Becca Balint.

In Nevada: Signatures are being collected right now to put a reproductive rights amendment on the ballot so voters can protect their freedoms from the threat of Donald Trump's nationwide ban.

In North Carolina:

Because of Donald Trump, North Carolinians live under a restrictive abortion ban.

In Pennsylvania:

Abortion remains legal, but access would be ripped away by a national abortion ban like Donald Trump is proposing.

In Wisconsin:

Voters have already experienced the legal uncertainty and chaos caused by Donald Trump. Now, despite the fact that abortion care is being provided in the state, Donald Trump's plans to ban abortion access nationwide directly threaten Wisconsin voters' rights.

Last year, Rep. Caraveo stood up for women's reproductive rights with her original co-sponsorship of the *Women's Health Protection Act*, a bill enshrining abortion protections into federal law. Additionally, she has stood up for the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) authority to approve medication used for abortion care. In Congress, Dr. Caraveo will always fight to protect a woman's right to make her own choices about her body and her healthcare.

Read the full bill [here](#).

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STOP TEXTS STOP WRECKS.ORG

ad COUNCIL NHTSA

Debate

Darcy Hill, a spokesperson for Planned Parenthood Advocates of Arizona, said that the initiative had already collected half of the more than 380,000 signatures needed to get it on the ballot, before the enthusiastic crowd lined up at Saturday's event to sign.

A small group of counter-protesters with a microphone and loudspeaker waited outside the plaza, holding anti-abortion signs and shouting at the marchers. But they were quickly drowned out by the chants of people carrying pink flags and holding signs declaring their bodily autonomy.

Phoenix resident Connie Campbell Henry said she marched in the '70s in support of Roe and is now marching for her five granddaughters and three daughters-in-law.

"When Roe was overturned, I just cried," said Henry, 69. "I said we've got to go back, we've got to go back and fight this. And we did this 50 years ago and it really made me angry. And I'm out here trying to rally women to vote, vote, vote, vote. We are going to do this at the ballot box."

For Kimball, the issue of abortion is personal: She said she got pregnant pre-Roe, when abortion was illegal in Colorado, and was forced to have a child "that I wasn't ready to have, didn't want to have." She said it changed the trajectory of her life.

"And I have to say that even though my kid is fantastic, and I love him dearly, you know, I'm still pissed off about it after all these years," she said. "I mean, it's not the kind of thing you get over, having to give up that control over your body."

Kimball said she was "heartbroken and devastated" when Roe was overturned, but not surprised, which is why she is fighting to have it enshrined in the state constitution.

"And then hopefully nobody can mess with it after that," she said. "I guess the Supreme Court said the states are going to have to take this up on their own and that's what states are doing."

Alexa Consentino, 21, marched with her friends, Melanie Thiebert, 25, and Lauren Collins, 26. Consentino wore a pink bandana, a Barbie T-shirt and carried a sign that read, "This Barbie fights for abortion access."

Collins said her initial feelings of anger over Roe's reversal turned into motivation to raise awareness and make change. Consentino said she felt a mix of frustration and heartbreak when Roe was overturned.

"I think we trusted initially a sense of like that could never happen and when it did, it's like, how did we get here and how can we fix this?" she said.

All three of the young women said they signed the ballot petition.

"It matters and it's always mattered, and it's something that we've always felt strongly about and something that I've always wanted to support," Consentino said. "So I'm glad that these things are here in Phoenix and we can be a part of that."

Lillie Boudreax News Reporter, Washington, D.C. and Marnie Jordan News Visual Journalist, Phoenix with Cronkite News. Reproduced with permission by Cronkite News.

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ElSemanarioOnline.com**

Hastings & Torres

some countries have to wait decades to be able to reunite with family members who petitioned for them in the United States.

This same reform would create an asylum process that responds and adjusts to the needs of this century.

To that, we'd have to add the legalization of the millions of undocumented people among us who are already working and paying taxes. Legalizing them would lead to even more taxes for the Treasury. And, of course, such reform would send more resources to the border.

But during the past decades Republicans have blocked any attempt at realizing this immigration reform in Congress, and preferred to exploit the issue for political and electoral ends, with the goal of continuing to accuse the Democrats of having "open borders" and permitting migrants to "invade" us.

Abbott himself is one of the Republicans who has gone from rhetoric to cruel and dehumanizing action, sending migrants on buses and planes to cities run by Democrats; placing dangerous buoys and barbed wire in the Rio Grande; and declaring that "the only thing that [his government] is not doing is we're not shooting people

who come across the border, because of course the Biden administration would charge us with murder"; and closing the border park in whose environs the tragedy on Jan. 11th occurred.

And to top it all off, the threat facing migrants does not cease. Donald Trump's victory on Jan. 15th in the Iowa caucus seems to be another step toward his intent of winning the Republican presidential nomination. The same Trump of the wall, of family separation, of Title 42 and so many other nasty policies, who built his anti-immigrant resume this past weekend the assertion that when he assumes the presidency in 2025 (if he wins the nomination and the general election), "will carry out the largest domestic deportation operation in American history."

On X his advisor, the also anti-immigrant Stephen Miller, wrote with his characteristic dose of cynicism that "the deportations will begin at noon, Inauguration Day."

Maribel Hastings is a Senior Advisor to América's Voice. David Torres is a Spanish-language Advisor at América's Voice.

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Natalie Sperl, from Los Angeles, wears a "Keep Your Laws Off My Body" dress at the rally. / Natalie Sperl, de Los Ángeles, lleva un vestido "Keep Your Laws Off My Body" en la manifestación. (Photo/Foto: Marnie Jordan/Cronkite News)



Suicide

of Hispanic children who report having suicidal thoughts.

"Our kids are interpreters, they pay bills, go to medical appointments," putting additional stress and anxiety on them, said Belisa Urbina, CEO of Ser Familia.

Suicide is rarely caused by a single issue; many factors can increase one's risk. These can include a previous suicide attempt, a breakup or loss, a history of depression or other mental illness, financial or job problems, lack of access to health care, and social isolation, said Robin Lee, who leads the Applied Sciences Branch in the CDC's Division of Injury Prevention.

Mental health experts said there are many social and economic pressures on minority groups. For Hispanics, cultural and systemic obstacles may also be at play.

According to the Latino Community Fund Georgia, stress linked to immigration status has led to an increase in mental health problems.

"Not feeling like you belong, and not knowing what your life holds ahead of you" can create feelings of uncertainty and anxiety, said Vargas, the mental health worker in L.A.

A study of 547 Latino adolescents ages 11 to 16 found the detention or deportation of a family member was associated with significantly higher odds of suicidal thoughts.

"There are waves of immigrants coming as minors, displaced, and sometimes not with immediate caregivers," Elias said. "This can put hefty burden on children. They are expected, as minors, to balance self-financing and earning money to support family or help them immigrate to the U.S."

Lack of access to mental health care is a problem for all segments of society, particularly since the beginning of the pandemic. But minorities face added economic and societal obstacles, said Maria Oquendo, a past president of the American Psychiatric Association and a suicide researcher.

Nirmita Panchal, a senior policy analyst for KFF, said children of color "may not receive culturally sensitive mental health screenings, and their mental health symptoms may be mistakenly characterized as disruptive behaviors."

Language also remains a significant barrier.

"We have a tremendous need for bilingual mental health providers in Georgia," said Pierluigi Mancini, president and CEO of the Multicultural Development Institute, a Georgia-based consulting organization.

Gruner, who set up the Latino support group in Dalton, said she is aware of only three bilingual providers in that

area. The city is in Whitfield County, where more than a third of the 100,000 residents are Hispanic.

And bias can add another obstacle.

A recent Rand Corp study, using a secret-shopper process, found evidence of potential discrimination during the scheduling process for a mental health appointment in California. About 1 in 5 Spanish-language calls ended with the scheduler hanging up or informing the caller that no one was available to assist in Spanish.

Mental illness can also be culturally taboo among many Black and Hispanic people. (Hispanics can be of any race or combination of races.)

"There is a belief that men shouldn't seek help — they should solve their problems themselves," said Francisco, 55, a member of the Dalton support group who himself attempted suicide as a teen. KFF Health News attended the session where he and others spoke, using only their first names for privacy reasons.

To address the mental health crisis, the federal government, in conjunction with states, introduced the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline in 2022 for people to connect with a crisis counselor and other resources. In July, it added a 988 text and chat service in Spanish, but a spokesperson for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Services Administration acknowledged more work needs to be done to reach communities at risk.

Across the country, mental health professionals, researchers, and Hispanic leaders point to several ways to reduce suicide.

It's crucial that more funding goes toward mental health generally, including prevention programs that recognize cultural, legal, and language needs, said Jagdish Khubchandani, a professor and researcher at New Mexico State University.

For now, some local leaders are filling gaps by doing community work, such as forming support groups for the Hispanic population.

Miguel Serricchio of Santa Clarita, California, facilitates bilingual support groups for people whose lives have been rocked by suicide. His son, Alex, battling anxiety, took his own life in 2016 after a breakup with his girlfriend.

"I wanted to get the word out," Serricchio said.

Gruner, 64, who was born in Mexico City, hears from people in her weekly support group who have thought about suicide, have attempted it, or worry about their children doing the same.

During the meeting attended by KFF Health News, a woman named Angela said her three daughters had

anxiety and depression. "One of them told me she is suffering because we are immigrants," she said.

Another attendee, Katherine, 16, cited, among other factors, unstable living conditions. For a time, she said, "we were struggling to find a home. We would be roommates with other families," she said.

Her friend Alejandro, also 16, said he's struggled with suicidal thoughts after the death of his grandmother and arguments between his parents.

Vargas said that young people are looking for honesty and no judgment. They don't want adults to dismiss their problems, telling them they'll grow out of them.

"While the subject of suicide can be really scary or unsettling, when someone approaches you and tells you they are thinking about suicide, it can be a really wonderful, beautiful moment of hope," Vargas said. "That opening is an opportunity to connect and support one another."

Andy Miller, Senior Editor, Georgia Health News. Molly Castle Work, Correspondent, KFF Health News. This article was produced by KFF Health News, which publishes California Healthline, an editorially independent service of the California Health Care Foundation.

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Nos Vemos Pronto

and by a fairly big number and that ensured him another six years."

Chávez had changed the guidelines to allow for unlimited terms. Chávez died in 2013 from cancer after he went to Cuba for care.

Nicolas Maduro then took over as President and increasing authoritarianism continued.

"As a result there has been very dramatic falling oil exports, the government's failure to inadequately invest in industrial sector and any other sector other than oil, and the inflation really started to soar — we are concerned about inflation of four, five, six percent per year — but in Venezuela the inflation soon soared to over 800 % -- but that wasn't all -- by 2018, it skyrocketed again to 2,400 %, because of corruption and mismanagement and so on, and it wasn't quite done. The International Monetary Fund predicted by year's end inflation would reach 13,000 %. So, at that time at least 5,000 per day were leaving Venezuela," said Dr. Torres.

By 2023, the number became 7.7 million Venezuelans had left their country, according to Dr. Torres.

"I want to give a note of caution though, I realize that we hear all the time that we are in a *crisis*, well I would caution that somewhat — the Venezuelans *are in a crisis*, the immigrants *are in a crisis* — the Venezuelan immigrants who are right outside the door here—literally —are, and throughout Denver *are in a crisis*," emphasized Dr. Torres.

Watch interviews [here](#) produced by Karen Gutiérrez, Visual Journalist, *The Weekly Issue/El Semanario*, as she interviews new families arriving in the U.S. Video translations produced by Juan Carlos Uribe, Spanish Editor, *The Weekly Issue/El Semanario*.

Toni C. Frésquez is the Editor for The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.

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844-CO-4-Kids

Available 24 hours a day, every day. Don't hesitate to call and get help. Anyone witnessing a child in a life-threatening situation should call 911 immediately.



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Debate/Esp



De izquierda a derecha, Alexa Cosentino, de 21 años, Melanie Thiebert, de 25, y Lauren Collins, de 26, dicen que la revocación de Roe las motivó y que marchan para luchar por los derechos de la mujer. / From left, Alexa Cosentino, 21, Melanie Thiebert, 25, and Lauren Collins, 26, say the reversal of Roe motivated them and they are marching to fight for women's rights. (Foto/Photo: Marnie Jordan/Cronkite News)

Los legisladores del estado redujeron el umbral para abortar de las 26 semanas anteriores a Dobbs a las 15 semanas actuales, excepto en casos de emergencia médica. Pero los detractores del aborto argumentan que

la prohibición casi total del aborto del siglo XIX nunca se retiró de los libros y debería ser la ley hoy en día, un argumento que el Tribunal Supremo de Arizona consideró en diciembre y podría decidir cualquier día. La propuesta

de enmienda constitucional pretende proteger el aborto independientemente de lo que decida el tribunal. Antes de la marcha se instalaron carpas con peticiones en la plaza Wesley Bolin Memorial y voluntarios con portapa-

Reproductive Justice

patients face barriers to care. By lifting the public funding ban, more pregnant people would be able to easily access care.

"Even though we have it codified in state law, far too many people still do not have access because of the barriers that were put into our state Constitution in 1984. I looked up how much it costs to have an abortion now in Colorado, and if you are struggling and living in poverty, you can't come up with over \$1,000 for a procedure, let alone take care of a child you don't want," U.S. Rep. Brittany Pettersen, a former state lawmaker who now represents Colorado's 7th Congressional District. "It's past time that we ensure everyone can get the health care that they need

regardless of where they live, the type of job that they have and their insurance."

Last week, lawmakers passed a joint resolution commemorating the anniversary of Roe v. Wade and encouraging voters to approve the upcoming constitutional amendment.

"As we lament (the Dobbs decision) from the U.S. Supreme Court, I am grateful to the Coloradans who are enacting not only upon our legacy as being a trailblazer in this state but who are also blazing new paths forward to ensure that we do everything we can as a state," Sen. Julie Gonzales, a Denver Democrat, said last Thursday before the state Senate took its vote on the resolution. "I look forward to Novem-

ber to see once again Coloradans enshrine the access to abortion care that we know changes lives."

Voters could potentially face two opposing ballot measures on abortion in the fall. Supporters for Initiative 81, an outright abortion ban, have begun collecting signatures.

Colorado voters have rejected abortion restrictions four times since 2008, including a 22-week ban in 2020.

Sara Wilson is a Reporter with Colorado Newsline. This article is republished from Colorado Newsline under a Creative Commons license.

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peles trabajaron entre la multitud recogiendo firmas. Darcy Hill, portavoz de Planned Parenthood Advocates of Arizona, dijo que la iniciativa ya había recogido la mitad de las más de 380.000 firmas necesarias para ser incluida en la votación, antes de que la entusiasta multitud se alineara en el acto del sábado para firmar.

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Un pequeño grupo de contramanifestantes con un micrófono y un altavoz esperaban fuera de la plaza, con pancartas contra el aborto y gritando a los manifestantes. Pero fueron rápidamente ahogados por los cánticos de las personas que portaban banderas rosas y carteles que declaraban su autonomía corporal.

Connie Campbell Henry, residente en Phoenix, dijo que se manifestó en los años 70 en apoyo de Roe y que ahora lo hace por sus cinco nietas y tres nueras. "Cuando Roe fue anulado, me eché a llorar", dijo Henry, de 69 años. "Dije que teníamos que volver atrás, que teníamos que volver atrás y luchar contra esto. Y lo hicimos hace 50 años y realmente me enfadó. Y estoy aquí fuera intentando reunir a las mujeres para que voten, voten, voten, voten. Vamos a hacerlo en las urnas".

Para Kimball, la cuestión del aborto es personal: Dijo que se quedó embarazada antes de la ley Roe, cuando el aborto era ilegal en Colorado, y se vio obligada a tener un hijo "que no estaba preparada para tener, que no quería tener". Dijo que eso cambió la trayectoria de su vida.

"Y tengo que decir que, aunque mi hijo es fantástico y le quiero mucho, sigo cabreada por ello después de todos estos años", dijo. "Quiero decir, no es el tipo de cosa que se supera, tener que renunciar a ese control sobre tu cuerpo".

Kimball se mostró "desconsolada y devastada" por la anulación de Roe, pero no sorprendida, y por eso lucha para que se consagre en la Constitución estatal. "Y luego, con suerte, nadie podrá meterse con ella", dijo. "Supongo que el Tribunal Supremo dijo que los estados van a tener que ocuparse de esto por su cuenta y eso es lo que están haciendo los estados".

Alexa Consentino, de 21 años, marchó con sus amigas, Melanie Thiebert, de 25, y Lauren Collins, de 26. Consentino llevaba un pañuelo rosa, una camiseta de Barbie y portaba un cartel que decía: "Esta Barbie lucha por el acceso al aborto".

Collins dijo que sus sentimientos iniciales de rabia por la revocación de Roe se convirtieron en motivación para concienciar y lograr cambios. Consentino dijo que sintió una mezcla de frustración y angustia cuando se revocó Roe.

"Creo que al principio teníamos la sensación de que eso nunca podría ocurrir y, cuando ocurrió, nos preguntamos cómo habíamos llegado hasta aquí y cómo podíamos solucionarlo", explicó.

Las tres jóvenes dijeron que habían firmado la petición de voto.

"Importa y siempre ha importado, y es algo sobre lo que siempre nos hemos sentido firmes y algo que siempre he querido apoyar", dijo Consentino. "Así que me alegra de que estas cosas estén aquí en Phoenix y podamos formar parte de ello".

Lillie Boudreaux es Reportera de Noticias, Washington, D.C. y Marnie Jordan es periodista visual, Phoenix, Az, para Cronkite News.
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Traducido por Juan Carlos Uribe, The Weekly Issue/El Semanario.

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An advertisement for Energy Outreach Colorado. The top half features a photo of a man with a beard and glasses holding a smiling baby. The text reads: "WORRIED ABOUT RISING ENERGY COSTS? Energy Outreach Colorado has programs to help pay past due energy bills and lower your yearly energy costs. Visit energyoutreach.org/programs or call 1-866-432-8435 to get help today." The bottom left contains the Energy Outreach Colorado logo and the tagline "Together We Power Stability".

Suicidios

Muchos viven en hogares más pobres con algunos o todos los miembros de la familia sin papeles. Las barreras culturales y de idioma pueden evitar que busquen atención, en un sistema de salud mental cuyo acceso a los servicios ya de por sí es complejo.

"Poder hablar sobre cosas dolorosas en un idioma con el que te sientes cómodo es un tipo de sanación muy específica", dijo Alejandra Vargas, coordinadora bilingüe del programa en español del Suicide Prevention Center de Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services en Los Ángeles. "Cuando atendemos llamadas en español, se puede sentir ese alivio al otro lado de la línea", dijo. "Como un: 'Sí, me van a entender'".

Los datos provisionales de los Centros para el Control y Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC) para 2022 muestran un récord de casi 50,000 muertes por suicidio para todos los grupos raciales y étnicos.

Pero sombrías estadísticas de KFF muestran que el aumento en la tasa de muertes por suicidio ha sido más pronunciado entre las comunidades de color: de 2011 a 2021, la tasa de suicidio entre los hispanos aumentó de 5.7 por cada 100,000 personas a 7.9 por cada 100,000, según los datos.

Para niños hispanos de 12 años y menos, la tasa aumentó un 92.3% de 2010 a 2019, según un estudio publicado en el *Journal of Community Health*.

Es un problema que se repite de costa a costa, tanto en comunidades urbanas como rurales.

El Children's Institute, una organización de servicios sociales con sede en Los Ángeles y con una clientela principalmente latina, ha informado de un aumento significativo en las visitas a las salas de emergencias y hospitalizaciones entre los jóvenes debido a comportamientos arriesgados y pensamientos suicidas, dijo Diane Elias, vicepresidenta de salud conductual del instituto. Dijo que niños de tan solo 8

años han tenido que ser hospitalizados por intentar hacerse daño.

En Georgia, hogar de una creciente población hispana, la tasa de suicidio aumentó un 55% de 2018 a 2022, según el Departamento de Salud Pública estatal. Ser Familia, una organización de servicios sociales en el área metropolitana de Atlanta, dijo que ha visto números alarmantes de niños hispanos que dicen tener pensamientos suicidas.

"Nuestros niños son intérpretes, pagan facturas, van a citas médicas", lo que agrega estrés y ansiedad adicionales, dijo Belisa Urbina, directora ejecutiva de Ser Familia.

El suicidio rara vez tiene una causa única; muchos factores pueden aumentar el riesgo. Pueden incluir un intento de suicidio previo, una ruptura o pérdida, historial de depresión u otras afecciones mentales, problemas financieros o laborales, falta de acceso a la atención médica y aislamiento social, dijo Robin Lee, quien lidera el Área de Ciencias Aplicadas en la División de Prevención de Lesiones de los CDC.

Expertos en salud mental dicen que hay muchas presiones sociales y económicas sobre los grupos minoritarios. Para los hispanos, también pueden cumplir un rol obstáculos culturales y sistémicos.

Según el Latino Community Fund Georgia, el estrés vinculado al estatus migratorio ha provocado un aumento en los problemas de salud mental. "No sentir que pertenes y no saber qué te depara el futuro" puede crear sentimientos de incertidumbre y ansiedad, dijo Vargas, la trabajadora de salud mental en Los Ángeles.

Un estudio con 547 adolescentes latinos de 11 a 16 años encontró que la detención o deportación de un familiar se asociaba con probabilidades significativamente más altas de pensamientos suicidas.

"Están llegando oleadas de inmigrantes que son menores, desplazados

y a veces sin cuidadores inmediatos", dijo Elias. "Esto puede poner una carga considerable sobre los niños. Son menores, y se espera que equilibren la autofinanciación y el ganar dinero para apoyar a la familia o ayudarles a migrar a Estados Unidos".

La falta de acceso a la atención de salud mental es un problema para todos los segmentos de la sociedad, especialmente desde el inicio de la pandemia. Pero las minorías enfrentan obstáculos económicos y sociales adicionales, dijo María Oquendo, ex presidenta de la Asociación Americana de Psiquiátrica e investigadora sobre el tema del suicidio.

Nirmita Panchal, analista senior de políticas de KFF, dijo que los niños de color "pueden no tener exámenes de salud mental culturalmente sensibles, y sus síntomas de salud mental pueden caracterizarse erróneamente como comportamientos disfuncionales".

El idioma también sigue siendo una barrera significativa.

"En Georgia, tenemos una tremenda necesidad de proveedores de salud mental bilingües", dijo Pierluigi Mancini, presidente y CEO del Multicultural Development Institute, una organización de consultoría con sede en Georgia.

Gruner, quien estableció el grupo de apoyo latino en Dalton, dijo que solo conoce a tres proveedores bilingües en esa área. La ciudad está en el condado de Whitfield, donde más de un tercio de los 100,000 residentes son hispanos.

Y el prejuicio puede agregar otro obstáculo.

Un estudio reciente de Rand Corp., que utilizó un proceso de "consumidor secreto", encontró evidencia de discriminación potencial durante el proceso para programar una cita de salud mental en California. Cerca de 1 de cada 5 llamadas en español terminó con el programador colgando el teléfono o informando al cliente que no había

nadie disponible que hablara español para ayudarlo.

La enfermedad mental también puede ser considerada culturalmente un tabú entre muchas personas negras e hispanas. (Los hispanos pueden ser de cualquier raza o combinación de razas).

"Existe una creencia de que los hombres no deberían buscar ayuda, deberían resolver sus problemas ellos mismos", dijo Francisco, de 55 años, quien participa del grupo de apoyo de Dalton e intentó suicidarse cuando era adolescente.

KFF Health News asistió a la sesión donde él y otros hablaron, usando solo sus nombres de pila por razones de privacidad.

Para abordar la crisis de salud mental, el gobierno federal, en conjunto con los estados, introdujo, en 2022, la Línea de Prevención del Suicidio y Crisis 988, para que las personas se conecten con un consejero de crisis y otros recursos.

En julio, agregó un servicio de texto y chat en español para el 988, pero un vocero de la Administración de Servicios de Abuso de Sustancias y Salud Mental reconoció que se necesita hacer más cosas para conectar con las comunidades en riesgo.

En todo el país, profesionales de salud mental, investigadores y líderes hispanos señalan varias formas para reducir el suicidio.

Es crucial que se destinen más fondos para la salud mental en general, incluidos programas de prevención que aborden las necesidades culturales, legales e idiomáticas, dijo Jagdish Khubchandani, profesor e investigador de la Universidad Estatal de Nuevo México.

Por ahora, algunos líderes locales están llenando los vacíos haciendo trabajo comunitario, por ejemplo, organizando grupos de apoyo para la población hispana.

Miguel Serricchio, de Santa Clarita, California, facilita grupos de apoyo

bilingües para personas cuyas vidas han sido sacudidas por el suicidio. Su hijo, Alex, quien estaba enfrentándose a la ansiedad, se quitó la vida en 2016 después de romper con su novia.

"Quería correr la voz", dijo Serricchio.

Gruner, de 64 años, quien nació en Ciudad de México, escucha a personas en su grupo de apoyo semanal que han pensado en el suicidio, lo han intentado o se preocupan por que sus hijos hagan lo mismo.

Durante la reunión a la que asistió KFF Health News, una mujer llamada Angela dijo que sus tres hijas tenían ansiedad y depresión. "Una de ellas me dijo que sufre porque somos inmigrantes", dijo. Otra asistente, Katherine, de 16 años, remarcó, entre otros factores, las condiciones de vida inestables. Por un tiempo, dijo, "luchábamos por encontrar un hogar. Compartíamos cuartos con otras familias", contó. Su amigo Alejandro, también de 16 años, dijo que ha luchado contra pensamientos suicidas después de la muerte de su abuela y de escuchar discusiones entre sus padres.

Vargas dijo que los jóvenes buscan honestidad y que no los juzguen. No quieren que los adultos descarten sus problemas, diciéndoles simplemente que "lo superarán".

"Aunque el tema del suicidio puede ser realmente aterrador o inquietante, cuando alguien se acerca y te dice que está pensando en el suicidio, puede ser un momento realmente maravilloso, de hermosa esperanza", dijo Vargas. "Esa apertura es una oportunidad para conectarse y apoyarse mutuamente".

Andy Miller, editor senior de Georgia Health News. Molly Castle Work, Corresponsal, KFF Health News.

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esta presentación, es realmente una pérdida de democracia. Y una pérdida del impacto de la gente cuando vota; vota una cosa y ocurre algo completamente distinto. Así, la corrupción y la pérdida de democracia realmente se extendieron por todo el país", dijo el Dr. Torres.

"En términos de números -en 2017, había 30,500,00 personas en Venezuela en tan solo unos pocos años, alrededor de 7,2 millones de personas se fueron debido a lo que estaba sucediendo".

El Dr. Torres discutió las causas fundamentales de la difícil situación de Venezuela.

"Cuando se piensa en Venezuela, en sus reservas de petróleo, hay que considerar todos los países del mundo que tienen reservas de petróleo, y la mayoría de los países las tienen. Estados Unidos es el número 6 u 8 dependiendo de las estadísticas que uno mire en términos de reservas de petróleo".

"Los tres primeros del mundo [en cuanto a reservas de petróleo]: Canadá

con 168.000 millones de barriles, Arabia Saudí en segundo lugar con 297.000 millones y Venezuela con 303.000 millones. Estados Unidos tiene algo más de 50.000 millones de barriles. Por lo tanto, Venezuela tiene la más alta de todo el mundo.

"Si comparamos nuestra población con la suya -las reservas-, deberían tener un gran futuro por delante", declaró el académico.

El Dr. Torres se explató sobre la estructura política más reciente de Venezuela en el lapso de las últimas dos décadas, con la elección del presidente venezolano Hugo Chávez en 1998, postulándose como socialista.

"Hugo Chávez se autodenominó marxista después de las elecciones, no antes. Por ejemplo, supervisó la redacción de una nueva constitución, poco después de ser elegido, y esa constitución le dio un control sin precedentes sobre los tres poderes del Estado.

"Fue esencialmente -bueno, intento

no decir dictador todavía- pero usemos ese término. Causó mucha agitación en Venezuela: hubo huelgas, por ejemplo, en el partido de la oposición -un grupo de la oposición al menos- que se desarrolló muy rápidamente.

"En diciembre de 2006, fue elegido de nuevo presidente por tercera vez y por un número bastante grande y eso le aseguró otros seis años".

Chávez había cambiado las directrices para permitir mandatos ilimitados. Chávez murió en 2013 de cáncer tras acudir a Cuba para recibir atención médica.

Nicolás Maduro asumió entonces la presidencia y continuó el creciente autoritarismo.

"Como resultado ha habido una caída muy dramática de las exportaciones de petróleo, el fracaso del gobierno en invertir inadecuadamente en el sector industrial y cualquier otro sector que no sea el petróleo, y la inflación realmente comenzó a dispararse - estamos

preocupados por la inflación del cuatro, cinco, seis por ciento al año - pero en Venezuela la inflación pronto se disparó a más del 800 % - pero eso no fue todo - en 2018, se disparó de nuevo a 2.400 %, debido a la corrupción y la mala gestión y así sucesivamente, y no estaba hecho del todo. El Fondo Monetario Internacional predijo que a finales de año la inflación alcanzaría el 13.000 %. Así que, en ese momento, al menos 5.000 personas al día abandonaban Venezuela", dijo el Dr. Torres.

Para 2023, la cifra se convertía en 7,7 millones de venezolanos que habían abandonado su país, según el Dr. Torres.

"Los venezolanos están en crisis, los inmigrantes están en crisis, los inmigrantes venezolanos que están justo en la puerta de aquí -literalmente- están, y en todo Denver están en crisis", enfatizó la Dra. Torres.

Vea [aquí](#) las entrevistas producidas por Karen Gutiérrez, Periodista Visual,

The Weekly Issue/El Semanario, mientras entrevista a las nuevas familias que llegan a EE.UU. Las traducciones de los videos fueron producidas por Juan Carlos Uribe, Editor en Español, *The Weekly Issue/El Semanario*.

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