Dear Abortion Access Champion,

It’s difficult to describe the weight of this moment. As this newsletter goes to print, we’re reeling from a confirmed leaked draft majority decision of the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling on Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization, a significant case centered on a Mississippi abortion ban. That draft clearly, cruelly, and forcefully overturns Roe v. Wade. Over the next weeks, we’ll await the final decision knowing that, with an ultra-conservative court, a post-Roe future is on the horizon.

In the last few months, we’ve watched state lawmakers across the country push an egregious legislative agenda steeped in fear and intimidation; in the wake of this news, in just the past few days, we’ve seen those anti-abortion lawmakers accelerate their attacks and make clear their intent to eradicate access. We’ve seen laws passed and bills in progress that are designed to undermine our reproductive autonomy, limit our access to gender-affirming healthcare, and constrict our ability to plan for our families and our futures. Our communities deserve to be cared for, not shamed and policed.

But the truth is, abortion funds have been supporting people to navigate barriers for decades and are uniquely prepared for a post-Roe future. We know Roe has never guaranteed access for people struggling financially, people who are forced to travel long distances for care, and for communities of Black, Indigenous, and people of color who are disproportionately criminalized for their abortion decisions and pregnancy outcomes. Regardless of what comes next, we will not leave anyone behind. Abortion funds will continue doing what they’ve always done — make sure people can get the abortions they need — with or without Roe in place.

With all that we’re up against, it’s normal to feel discouraged and overwhelmed. In these difficult times, let the power of abortion funds be a beacon. In these pages, I am pleased to share with you some of the ways we are fortifying the collective power of the network and bringing forward our vision for the future. And soon, we will be welcoming our new Executive Director who will help guide us into this new chapter.

When institutions fail us, we are the ones who provide safety and community care for one another. We do this work for ourselves, for each other, and for generations to come. With you on our side, we will never stop organizing to build a world in which everyone can access the abortions they want and need — free from stigma, criminalization, and harassment.

In solidarity,

Debasri Ghosh
Managing Director
National Network of Abortion Funds
Right now, abortion funds are experiencing a volume of requests like never before. As callers are unfairly forced to navigate more obstacles to care with fewer resources, funds are being stretched to the limit.

Between a tidal wave of new restrictions across the country and preparing for a Supreme Court decision that could narrow the abortion access landscape even further, this network has spent the first part of 2022 with all hands on deck.

We know that times of crisis require immediate and compassionate action; abortion funds deserve nothing less. With your support, we’ve relaunched the Abortion Funds Crisis Relief Fund to move $1M in rapid response grants to abortion funds by June of this year.

The Crisis Relief Fund was originally created at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 to provide quick support to abortion funds navigating increased calls, clinic shutdowns, and steep declines in revenue. Unfortunately, the weight of the compounded crises since then has only continued to build. When we asked, funds told us they need more money for direct abortion funding and their operations, and they need it now. Guided by fund input and in line with our NNAF values, we crafted a plan to redistribute $1M in unrestricted funding throughout the network.

When we fund abortion, we build community power. Already, NNAF has moved $600,000 to abortion funds in states at high risk of an SB 8 copycat bill or immediate ban of abortion if Roe falls. Abortion funds have been able to use these resources to fill existing financial gaps, including direct abortion funding, practical support, and internal capacity building.

Receiving NNAF’s Crisis Relief Funding has allowed TBAF the ability to streamline funding for callers from Florida and the surrounding states. Without this additional funding from NNAF, we would not have been able to keep our intake line open, especially as Floridians have faced multiple new restrictions pass through the state courts and legislature.”

— Kris Lawler, Board member, Tampa Bay Abortion Fund

*The Texas law making anyone who helps someone access abortion after six weeks in the state vulnerable to a civil lawsuit.

The Crisis Relief Fund allowed us to seamlessly continue the work of funding people’s abortions through our Helpline while we navigated increased barriers to abortion in Texas. This funding helped us fund the most people we’ve ever funded at the highest amounts we’ve ever been able to commit—doubling our highest funding amount.”

— Kamyon Conner, Executive Director, Texas Equal Access Fund.

We demand support for and access to a full range of abortion options free from criminalization, stigma, and harassment, including but not limited to in-clinic care, abortion pills by mail, and self-managed abortion.

We demand an end to criminalization, punishment, and harassment by the state, by institutions, and by individuals for any decision around family planning, the outcome of any pregnancy, and any medical decision concerning one’s body. We recognize that the criminalization of people’s bodily autonomy and reproductive freedom is rooted in a long history of racial capitalism, colonialism, and white supremacy.

We publicly launched these demands in January on the 49th anniversary of Roe. Join us in building grassroots power behind local funds! You can read the full list of demands and sign on at abortionfunds.org/demands. You’ll be connected to calls to action from local funds.

In the face of crisis, abortion funds never stop working to find more ways to say “yes.”

In the face of crisis, abortion funds never stop working to find more ways to say “yes” when someone calls seeking support. Crisis relief funding gets more money directly to abortion funds so they can determine how to spend it most effectively in their communities.

In the fall of 2021, abortion funds collaborated to draft a set of demands in response to the escalating attacks on abortion. The demands assert a vision for the future of abortion access as the stakes escalate around the United States and also outline concrete steps for realizing the safe, thriving communities of our wildest dreams.

Two of the seven demands are:

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You still have time to join the largest grassroots abortion access fundraiser!

Right now, people are facing more barriers to abortion than ever before, and the stakes have never been higher. With the help of supporters like you, this year’s Fund-a-Thon will be the most successful this network has ever seen. Every dollar you raise during Fund-a-Thon strengthens local abortion funds and ensures more people can get their abortions.

Learn more about how you can build power with your local abortion fund this Fund-a-Thon season by visiting fundathon.nnaf.org. Already participating in a Fund-a-Thon team? We want to hear about it! Post a photo on social media using the hashtag #FThon22.