

June 2022

Dear Friends,

Women's Foundation of Montana donors, grantees, and partners have been reaching out to me over the past few weeks to express their fear and anger about the leaked U.S. Supreme Court draft decision that would overturn Roe v. Wade.

Those reaching out to me have bravely shared their personal experiences with abortion. I've witnessed lifelong friends have their first conversation about their support for women's holistic medical care, including abortion. Young women have articulated their anger about a future where their mental health, their physical health, and ultimately their lives are not prioritized.

It has been humbling and emotional. It has made clear the important, urgent work ahead of us.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights, including the right to access medical care that includes abortion, are foundational to women's well-being, equality, and empowerment. Research clearly links full access to reproductive health resources to economic security. Key to the Women's Foundation of Montana's mission of advancing economic independence for women in Montana is ensuring our right to make decisions about our own health care, including when to become a parent.

We must support organizations working to preserve abortion access as an essential component of women's health care. The Women's Foundation of Montana affirms our support for leaders in this work and all they are doing to ensure everyone can make decisions concerning their health with privacy, dignity, respect, and support.

Thank you for being a partner in this work. Together, we are stronger.
Sincerely,



Kylie Gursky
WFM Program Officer
kylie@mtcf.org

Kylie Gursky & Women's Foundation of Montana Advisory Committee

Ways to Take Immediate Action in Support of Women's Healthcare Rights

Montana Women Vote, a Women's Foundation of Montana grantee, outlined the following steps if you're looking to take immediate action:

- Pledge to vote NO on LR-131, a ballot measure coming this November that seeks to undermine safe, legal abortion in Montana. More info soon!
- Remind your state legislators to protect our rights, not endanger them. **You can find out who your legislators are and how to contact them here.**
- Donate to the abortion funds **Indigenous Women Rising** and **Susan Wicklund Fund**, two organizations dedicated to helping Montanans access abortion.
- Make sure your voter registration is up-to-date. **You can check that you're registered, update your address, find your county election office, and more here.**

Listed below are the organizations that hosted the Bans off our Bodies rallies across Montana and the country the weekend of May 14. If you are looking to get involved or donate, begin with learning about these organizations:

- [ACLU of Montana](#)
- [Blue Mountain Clinic](#)
- [Montana Human Rights Network](#)
- [Montana National Organization of Women](#)
- [Montana Women Vote](#)
- [Montanans for Choice](#)
- [Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana](#)
- [Susan Wicklund Fund](#)

Further reading:

- [Economic effects of abortion access](#)
- [The consequences of repealing Roe v. Wade for Indigenous and Alaska Native women](#)
- [Abortion and the burden of traveling for healthcare](#)
- [Overturning Roe v. Wade and the impacts on LGBTQ rights](#)





June is **Pride** Month! At the Women's Foundation, we are looking forward to celebrating the vast range of identities and sexualities Montana residents have.

Missoula Pride was June 3-5 and our AmeriCorps VISTA, Kelly, was in attendance and took some great pictures (featured here). Below is a list of upcoming pride events happening across the state this month and next. See a list of events at the links below and get signed up for a parade!

- **Flathead Pride** happening in Kalispell on June 9-12.
- **Billings Pride**, happening in Billings on June 25.
- **Helena Pride**, happening in Helena on July 17-22.

Be sure to look for **Women's Foundation** staff walking in the Helena Pride parade alongside many other businesses and non-profits. We look forward to seeing you there!

Have a happy and safe **Pride** month!

Developing Leaders for Montana's Future

Webinar: Developing Leaders for Montana's Future

Monday, June 20th 12:00pm-1:00pm

Join the Women's Foundation of Montana and Red Ants Pants Foundation for an engaging discussion about the state of women's leadership development in Montana.

Featuring:

- **Deena Mansour**, Executive Director, **Mansfield Center- University of Montana**
- **Suzi Berget White**, Director of Business Development, **Prospera Women's Business Center**
- **Shannon Stober**, **Jump Start Training and Development** founder

Moderated by: **Megan Torgerson**, founder of **Reframing Rural**

Hear from experts about how they educate, empower, and encourage women to take on leadership roles in politics; what tools and support they provide to help women establish, grow and sustain businesses; and how they build upon the strength of girls from rural Montana to create highly competent and confident leaders. Learn more about the event and the speakers [here](#).

[Register Here](#)

The Girls Leadership Program hosted by Red Ants Pants Foundation is accepting applications for their 2022-2023 cohort. [Learn more here](#) and encourage a young person in your life to apply!

PowerHouse Blog

Unequal Pay for Unequal Work



Have you ever wondered how exactly the gender pay gap is calculated? What does it mean exactly that Black Women's Equal Pay Day and Asian American Women's Equal Pay Day occur during different parts of the year? What are the ways we can end the gender pay gap and what can I as a worker or business owner do? We answer these questions and more in our most recent blog post [here](#).

Have You Remembered To Update Your PowerHouse Profile?

Not sure when you last updated your PowerHouse profile or if you even have one set up? Click [here](#) to update or create a profile and start connecting with other women.

PowerHouse Montana, an initiative of the Women's Foundation of Montana, is an online platform designed to connect Montana women to the mentors and resources they need to succeed. Learn more and sign up at powerhousemt.org.



Support Montana Women and Girls!

Together we can empower Montana women and girls to pursue their dreams.

Give Now

About the Women's Foundation of Montana

Established in 1999, the Women's Foundation of Montana is a program of Montana Community Foundation and on a mission to advance women's economic independence and create a brighter future for our girls. Learn more at wfmontana.org.



MONTANA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION