

Topical Seminars

Friday, April 17

On-Line at 1:30 pm

Register at <https://lewes.lib.de.us/>

Hi all, the topic for the next topical seminar will be reproductive rights led by Susan Cohen. “Susan Cohen joined the Guttmacher Institute in 1978 and served as Vice President for Public Policy until her retirement in July 2016. She directed the Institute’s public policy efforts with an emphasis on U.S. federal as well as global issue analysis and strategy development. She was also the Editor-in-Chief of the Guttmacher Policy Review. Ms. Cohen had served on the boards of the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association and AVSC International (now Engender Health), as Chair of the Population and Family Planning Section of the American Public Health Association and on the National Governing Council of the American Jewish Congress. Ms. Cohen earned a Bachelor of Arts from Vassar College and a Master of Public Health from the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill) School of Public Health, specializing in maternal and child health.”

Susan would like us to read over the following list of articles related to reproduction rights. These articles help frame the conversation and to better understand some of the questions she is asking below. Please consider her questions while reading the articles.

Abortion case pending before the US Supreme

Court: <https://www.guttmacher.org/article/2020/02/louisiana-has-passed-89-abortion-restrictions-roe-its-about-control-not-health>

Overruling Roe v Wade isn't all we have to

fear: <https://www.commondreams.org/views/2019/05/23/outright-reversal-roe-v-wade-isnt-all-we-should-fear>

Chart showing the breadth of antiabortion laws by

state: <https://www.guttmacher.org/state-policy/explore/overview-abortion-laws>

Exploiting the threat of COVID-19 to shut down access to abortion

care: <https://www.npr.org/2020/04/10/831273530/legal-fight-heats-up-in-texas-over-ban-on-abortions-amid-coronavirus>

Meanwhile, Trump administration is contracting access to contraceptive services for low-income women: <https://www.guttmacher.org/article/2020/02/trump-administrations-domestic-gag-rule-has-slashed-title-x-networks-capacity-half>

Why threats to the existence of the Affordable Care Act mean further threats to access to reproductive health services: <https://www.guttmacher.org/article/2020/03/first-10-years-aca-we-must-protect-and-build-major-gains-sexual-and-reproductive>

Some questions to start the discussion:

1. Play out the political and cultural consequences of the US Supreme Court overturning *Roe v Wade* outright.
2. Should there be a “litmus” test for nominees to the US Supreme Court and the lower federal courts?
3. What does being “pro-choice” or in favor of abortion rights really mean? Should it be enough for a politician/lawmaker to declare he/she is against overturning *Roe*? (OK, this is a rhetorical question!)
4. Can common ground (such as promoting access to contraceptive services) be found anymore in this highly polarized world?
5. Discuss reasons why society has advanced so far and so fast in support of (or at least tolerant of) gay rights but reproductive rights remains mired in controversy and under constant threat.

Please remember to register for the online seminar so you can participate. We look forward to seeing you online. David and Aram