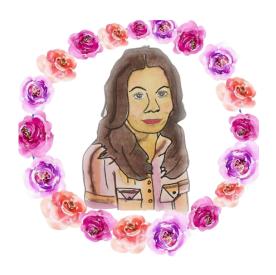
# ROSES FOR ROSIE



a zine to celebrate Rosie Jiménez's life & legacy



Rosaura Jiménez, known as Rosie, was a Chicana from McAllen, Texas who lost her life in 1977 because of abortion restrictions. Rosie grew up as part of a large family. Her parents were migrant farm workers who eventually opened a Mexican restaurant to share her mother's cooking. At 27 years old, she was a college student and single mom who had plans of building a better future for herself and her daughter Monique—she dreamed of becoming a teacher. She loved classic rock, dancing, and joking around in class. Rosie lived in an apartment next door to her best friend, and they helped each other raise their kids.



In September of 1977, Rosie found out she was pregnant again. She had previously had an abortion performed by a medical provider, but because a new federal regulation known as the Hyde Amendment had just come into effect which prohibited Medicaid coverage of abortion, she was unable to use her insurance to pay for her abortion care. Rosie could not afford to pay for an abortion from a licensed physician out of pocket, but she was determined to finish school, so she sought another option. On October 3, at only 27, Rosie Jiménez died of an unsafe abortion. The Hyde Amendment cost Rosie her life.

More than 45 years later, we are still fighting abortion restrictions that keep people from accessing abortion care. Rosie's story is a reminder that abortion care must be part of our collective fight for freedom and economic and reproductive justice.





Rosie has inspired countless people to take action to protect abortion access. She is the inspiration for our statewide policy called Rosie's Law, as well as local policies in support of that state law called Rosie's Resolutions.

## Rosie's Law

Since 2017, Frontera Fund, Texas Equal Access (TEA) Fund, and Lilith Fund have been working to advance Rosie's Law to restore Medicaid and private insurance coverage of abortion care for Texans. No one should be denied abortion care because of how much money they make or how they get their health insurance.



Rosie's Law was first introduced by Representative Sheryl Cole in 2019. In 2021, despite being one of the worst years for abortion at the Texas legislature, Rosie's Law hit a milestone when it was reintroduced by Rep. Cole in the House and it was introduced for the first time ever in the Senate by Senator Sarah Eckhardt.

#### 2020 Polling shows a majority of Texans support Medicaid coverage of abortion care

63% of Texas voters support Medicaid coverage of pregnancy-related health care, including abortion.

78% of young voters support Medicaid coverage of abortion.

84% of Texas voters across the political spectrum, including 75% of Republicans, agree that anti-abortion politicians shouldn't be able to deny people coverage for abortion care just because they are working to make ends meet.

A majority of Texas voters (56%) report they would feel more favorable towards their representative if they supported Medicaid coverage of abortion.

Polling commissioned by the Rosie's Law Coalition, 2020



#### **Rosie's Resolutions**

Abortion funds and supporters of Rosie's Law have also advanced Rosie's Resolutions at the local level to honor Rosie Jiménez's life and fight against abortion restrictions.

Repro Power Dallas, Repro Power Houston, Repro Power San Antonio, and Repro Power Austin are local coalitions led by abortion funds and other reproductive justice organizations that advance abortion-forward policies in their own communities. Many of them have led campaigns to advance Rosie's Resolutions. Repro Power Austin successfully won passage of Rosie's Resolution in 2018 and later pushed for and won a bold policy that dedicated a portion of the city's budget to pay for practical support for people seeking abortion care.



Rosie has also inspired organizing and advocacy in the border community where she was from since the time of her death. More recently, community leaders from various organizations in the Rio Grande Valley have organized rallies commemorating Rosie and advocating for reproductive justice. Keep reading to learn more about these organizations.





Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice Texas was established after a Latinas Organizing for Leadership and Advocacy training held in Texas in 2007. Through community mobilization, leadership development, and civic engagement strategies, the Latina Institute Texas is building a large base of Latinas/xs who use a reproductive justice lens to organize their communities for change. Since 2007, the Latina Institute has worked to increase Latina/x visibility in the reproductive justice movement, cultivated well-informed leaders to strengthen their state and national reproductive justice work, and built networks of activists in Texas to inform their policy agenda.



**UTRGV's Intersectional Feminist Student Club** (**IFSO**) is a student organization that focuses on advocating for not only women's rights but for everyone else's in the community. Some issues that the club advocates for include reproductive health, addressing period poverty, LGBTQ+ and immigrant rights and what it means to be an activist in the Rio Grande Valley. IFSO has held a menstrual products donation drive for the RGV Trans Closet and plans to distribute bags that contain reproductive health resources to the campus community. The club also provides menstrual products and condoms year-round for anyone in need.



South Texans for Reproductive Justice (STRJ) is a volunteer-run 501(c)3 non-profit organization serving the Rio Grande Valley and surrounding counties. They focus on community engagement and education in issues involving reproductive justice and abortion access. In 2021, STRJ began distributing free emergency contraception and sexual health kits throughout South Texas in relation to the restrictive abortion laws being passed. Visit bit.ly/rgvplanb to request free emergency contraception. To support STRJ's work, donate via Cash App, Paypal or Venmo: @sotx4rj



Founded in 2015, Frontera Fund is an abortion fund in the Rio Grande Valley that until recently provided both financial and practical support of abortion care for the RGV, all border cities from Brownsville to El Paso, and all undocumented individuals throughout the State of Texas. While Frontera Fund was forced to pause direct funding for abortion care because of threats of criminalization, Frontera Fund can still be reached at 956-887-0706 to discuss pregnancy options.







The **RGV Repro Coalition** is a coalition of groups across the RGV including Frontera Fund, South Texans for Reproductive Justice, and UTRGV's Intersectional Feminist Student Club. The coalition also includes South Texas organizers from the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice, Texas Rising-UTRGV, PPTV-RGV, and the ACLU of TX-RGV. Each group has collaborated to achieve Reproductive Justice in the RGV by connecting social justice movements and through community mobilization.





On July 20, 2021, anti-abortion advocates attempted to pass an ordinance in the City of Edinburg to unconstitutionally "ban" abortion in Edinburg, despite not having an abortion provider in the city. The proposed ordinance language also attempted to incentivize harassing lawsuits targeting people who help others access abortion care. The RGV Repro Coalition mobilized the community to speak out against this ordinance. After nearly four hours of public comment, the majority of which was in support of abortion access, the Edinburg mayor called for a motion on the ordinance, but none of the council members offered one. The item was effectively killed, stopped in its tracks by the RGV Repro Coalition!



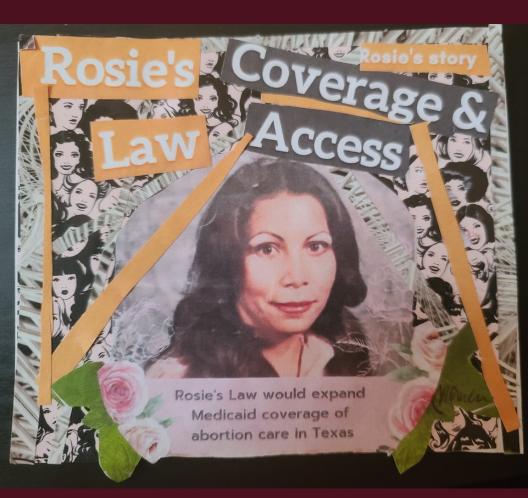
As we fight against abortion restrictions that stigmatize abortion and make it nearly impossible for Black, Indigenous and other people of color to access the care they need, we must also fight more broadly to liberate abortion by proactively building the world we deserve.

We have the capacity to dream up a world in which people are able to get the care they need, and making art to reflect that world helps give energy, ideas and even blueprints to our movement for abortion justice in Texas. That's why art has been central to the campaign for Rosie's Law. The following pages contain pieces created by abortion funds and supporters inspired by Rosie Jimenez and the Rosie's Law campaign. We hope these art pieces help us define what we're fighting for while giving us beauty to look at, which we need and deserve in our fight for abortion access.











By: Cathy Torres

Art from before the overturn of Roey Wade



A wheatpaste poster on 10th Avenue in Midtown Manhattan dedicated to Rosie Jiménez pasted during a collaborative action between Fund Abortion Not Police and Feminist Collages NYC on December 2nd, 2021. Photo by Bleu Grano



Unfortunately, while we are fighting for the world we deserve where all of us can get the abortion care we need on our terms, our communities continue to battle new abortion restrictions.

In 2021, instead of working on COVID relief or fixing our failing infrastructure amidst a worsening climate and energy crisis, anti-abortion politicians passed Senate Bill 8, the most extreme abortion ban in the country at the time.

In 2022, the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, eliminating the constitutional right to access abortion care. At the time of this printing, 12 states–including Texas–have successfully banned abortion as a result of the loss of federal protections.

SB 8 banned abortion around 6 weeks gestation and is enforced through threat of lawsuits from anyone, anywhere in the country who wants to make a claim that the law has been violated. Under SB 8, abortion providers, abortion funds, and anyone else who helps a Texan access abortion care could be sued. Many organizations, including Frontera Fund, TEA Fund, and Lilith Fund, led the fight in state and federal court to repeal this law.

Many of the same organizations are now suing to defend Texans' constitutional rights, and the right to to help Texans travel and pay for abortions. After *Roe* fell, Texas officials sought to criminalize abortion funds and those who help their neighbors access abortions by enforcing pre-Civil War anti-abortion laws and the "trigger" law passed in 2021 that bans abortion in nearly all cases.

Abortion funds and other abortion access advocates and organizations will continue to be there for Texans no matter what happens.





Ten months before the fall of *Roe*, SB 8 forced most Texans to travel out of state to receive abortion care. Since June 2022, all Texans have been forced to travel out of state to access abortion care in a clinic setting. As always, low-income people, immigrants, young people, people with disabilities, and women of color are hurt the most.

Go to **needabortion.org** to get the most up to date information and resources on accessing abortion care as a Texan.

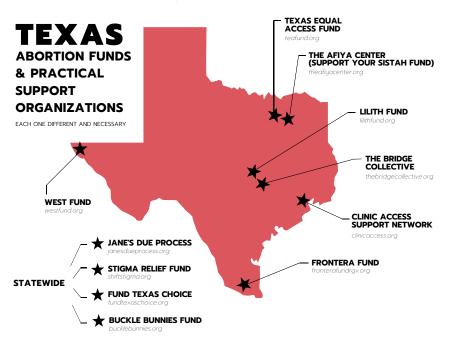
If it weren't for barriers to abortion access, Rosie would still be here.

Here's how we can liberate abortion in Rosie's memory: support abortion funds & fund abortion, expand abortion access, and bust abortion stigma.



Historically, one of the easiest and most impactful ways to support abortion access has been by donating to your local abortion fund. Abortion funds typically provide funding for abortion procedures or practical support like travel, lodging, or childcare. While many Texas abortion funds have been forced to pause direct funding of abortion because of threats of criminalization by Texas officials, abortion funds are still working hard to show up for Texans.

You can donate to 10 of our Texas abortion funds at **needabortion.org/donate** or donate directly to your local fund on their website. You can also fund abortion by donating to the National Network for Abortion Funds at **abortionfunds.org/donate**.





## **Expand abortion access**

Texas abortion funds have also been working for years to advance policies that restore and expand access to abortion for everyone. While it might be an uphill battle, we know that a majority of Texans already agree that everyone should be able to make their own decisions about abortion without politicians interfering.

#### **Get involved**

- Stay connected with your local abortion fund to learn about advocacy opportunities and take action
- Join the fight for local policies like Rosie's Resolution or measures that fund practical support for abortion care, by getting connected with your local Repro Power organization at repropowertx.org

## **Get involved (continued)**

- Join the fight for Rosie's Law so that everyone can use their insurance to pay for their abortion at rosieslaw.org
- If you're new to reproductive justice, learn how to fight for access to abortion care in your community at the Texas Abortion Access Network (TAAN) Academy.
   Find out when the next learning series starts at txabortionaccessnetwork.org



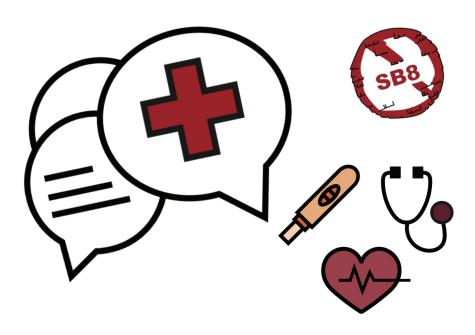






# What is abortion stigma?

Abortion stigma encompasses the negative beliefs and attitudes towards people wanting an abortion and the procedure itself. It leads to restrictions to abortion, affects abortion providers and advocates, and it creates numerous barriers to accessing this safe healthcare procedure. Abortion stigma is isolating and dangerous. For those that access abortion care, stigma can make them feel isolated, ashamed, and can keep them from sharing their stories—effectively silencing their voices and experiences. Stigma can also prevent people from accessing abortion on their own terms and force people to continue unwanted or medically unsafe pregnancies.



# Bust abortion stigma, say "abortion!"

How people talk about abortion is the leading factor contributing to abortion stigma. Anti-abortion extremists purposefully use stigmatizing messaging about abortion, but some advocates and allies repeat that messaging and play into the antis' agenda.

One way to start dismantling abortion stigma is by saying "abortion." There is nothing wrong with abortion and using euphamisms instead of the actual word contributes to stigma. Abortion is healthcare. It is safe, common, and a normal part of life. Let's say "abortion" when we mean abortion, not "reproductive healthcare," "women's health," "choice," "a tragic decision." Lets also say "abortionS!" Many people have more than one abortion in their reproductive lives.



| SAY THIS                       | NOT THIS                  | WHY  |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Texan(s),<br>a person,<br>they | Women,<br>she/her         | People who don't identify as women get abortions too. Trans and non-binary people must be included and centered in our fight for abortion justice.   |
| Pro-abortion                   | Nobody likes<br>abortion. | For so many, accessing abortion is about love. Love for themselves, for their future, or for the families they already have. That's why we love abortion and unapologetically say we are pro-abortion. |
| Abortion<br>must be            | Abortion should be        | There is nothing wrong with abortion. People   |

safe, legal,

and rare.

If we want

to reduce

abortions,

we should fund

contraception.

accessible

for all

people

without

restrictions.

**Abortion** 

must be

part of a full

range of pregnancy

related care.

should have as much

access to abortion as

they need. Making

abortion rare restricts

access and makes

it dangerous.

Birth control is not an alternative to abortion,

and we don't need to

reduce abortion.

| People seek later           |
|-----------------------------|
| abortions/abortions         |
| later in pregnancy for      |
| different reasons: abortion |
| restrictions made           |
| accessing care earlier in   |

SAY THIS

pregnancy difficult, a

abortion wanted pregnancy is no longer viable, or a person

heart-wrenchina decision to have a late term abortion when a pregnancy is no longer viable. mature enough have parental

decided they couldn't be pregnant. Every reason for seeking an abortion is valid. consent in order

Young people should be able to consent to their own reproductive and sexual healthcare needs.

Abortion is safe, we must make it

more accessible. Self-managed abortions are another option for people to access abortion on their own terms, with the support

of people they trust.

Make

botched

abortions etc).

**NOT THIS** 

Late term

abortions

are rare

and people

only make the

Kids are not

and should

to get birth

control or

an abortion.

abortion safe. Keep abortion safe. **Dangerous** illegal abortions

(coat hanger abortions, back alley abortions,

disproportionately harm LGBTQIA+, rural, immigrant Black, Indigenous, and youth of color the most. Abortion is already incredibly safe.

Everyone should be able to decide if and when to become a parent, including young people. We must trust young people because they know what is best for themselves and their futures. Parental involvement laws are about creating barriers to abortion care and they

experience disregards people with other experiences. We should trust people and trust their decisions.

 $\mathsf{WHY}$ 

"Late term" is not a medical

term, it is a phrase coined by

antis intended to stiamatize

abortion. Framing abortion

care later in pregnancy as

something that only people

with wanted pregnancies

Medication abortions are

now an option, which was not the case before Roe. Research shows that self managed abortion with medication abortion pills is no less effective than clinician managed medication abortion in a clinic setting.

Just because it is illegal, doesn't mean it's unsafe. We should not stiamatize or criminalize people who have abortions, whether they access abortion in a clinic or manage their own abortion.

This zine is brought to you by the Rosie's Law Coalition:



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