

JANE'S DUE PROCESS

teens. reproductive rights. texas

Summer 2020 Update

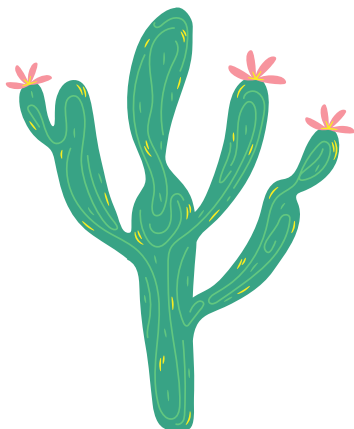


School closings and stay at home orders drastically limited the privacy of young people seeking reproductive healthcare during the COVID-19 pandemic. But the biggest barrier happened on March 22, when Texas Governor Greg Abbott issued an executive order that claimed abortion was not essential healthcare and abortion clinics must shut their doors. **The Governor's order politicized COVID-19 in an attempt to ban abortion in Texas.**

**The impact
of COVID-19
on teens'
reproductive
rights**

For the next 5 weeks, advocates fought tirelessly in the courts to overturn the Governor's actions, while patients, including teens, had to delay abortion care. **Throughout the abortion ban, our phone and text hotlines remained open and we continued to help teens navigate the judicial bypass process.** When the abortion ban lifted on April 22, our staff worked hard to ensure teens got appointments and no longer had to delay their abortion care. Young people are always disproportionately impacted by financial and logistical barriers to abortion. **But COVID-19 and the Texas abortion ban magnified those hurdles and demonstrated why ending parental consent laws is imperative for teens' reproductive freedom.**

Young people fight for their rights at the courts!



In March, our youth leader **HK Gray spoke on the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court** at the *June Medical Services* rally and shared her judicial bypass story. In May, the Court also heard cases challenging birth control access under the Affordable Care Act. **Sammie, a teen who advocates with JDP, spoke at the National Women's Law Center's virtual rally** and explained how hard it is to access birth control in Texas. Also, shout out to **youth leader CoWanda for creating powerful, informative TikTok videos** about her experience as a young Black woman accessing abortion in Texas and talking about emergency contraceptives!

Advocate for #SexEdForAll

In 2020, the Texas State Board of Education (SBOE) is revising the state's model sexual health education curriculum for the first time in 20 years. The state of Texas currently does not require sex education be taught in schools. And for schools that do choose to teach sex education, the curriculum is not required to be medically accurate or unbiased. The current SBOE curriculum also fails to include vital information on consent and is not LGBTQ inclusive.

Jane's Due Process has joined a state-wide coalition to ensure the voices of young people are centered throughout the process.

In February, we partnered with Austin Bat Cave to host a writing workshop for 16 high school students. The teens learned how to write op-eds from communications professionals and drafted pieces about their experiences with sex ed in Texas and how the curriculum could improve.



In April, JDP staff member Eleanor Grano led a virtual training called *Public Testimony 101* to explain how people - especially teens - can remotely submit testimony at upcoming SBOE meetings on the need for comprehensive sex ed. And in May, she led another virtual training, this time on how to use the social media platform TikTok to advocate for better sex ed.

Help us advocate for #SexEdForAll by pledging to submit testimony to the Texas State Board of Education before their final vote this fall. **Learn more and sign the pledge here: <https://janesdueprocess.org/blog/sex-ed-pledge/>**



No matter what, Jane's Due Process is here for young people, even in these uncertain times.

Support our work at www.janesdueprocess.org/donate