



**National Alliance to  
End Sexual Violence**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **NAESV Responds to Continued Efforts to Impede Abortion Access**

As court proceedings move forward, determining the fate of the availability of Mifepristone as an abortion medication, NAESV condemns the ongoing, unconscionable attacks on reproductive freedom and access to abortion care. Less than one year after the Supreme Court Decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, U.S. District Court Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk of Texas suspended the FDA's approval of mifepristone, ignoring the broad, safe usage of the medication since the original FDA approval in 2000. According to the FDA, more than 5.6 million people in the US used the medication prior to June 2020 with less than 1/10 of 1% reporting complications of using the drug.

Recovering from sexual violence and access to reproductive justice are fundamentally about bodily autonomy, empowerment, choice, and person-centered care. We can't address and end sexual violence unless survivors, and all people, are able to freely decide what happens to their bodies. According to the most recent [National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey](#), 14.9% of female victims of rape became pregnant. Survivors of sexual violence have experienced the most egregious attack of their bodily autonomy. They must not be further traumatized by being barred from the full range of reproductive healthcare choices and options including safe abortion medications such as Mifepristone.

Medication abortion, including the use of Mifepristone, continues to be legal and available in the United States today. However, the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court decision Wednesday has tightened the restrictions on when it can be used and how it can be dispensed, curtailing abortion access to many. Such restrictions have even greater impacts on survivors who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color as well as LGBTQ survivors and those who have a disability who already face oppression and additional hurdles to their recovery. We applaud the United States Department of Justice for seeking an emergency order from the Supreme Court to put this action on hold

and urge the Court to make the right and fair decision for survivors and all those who seek abortion care.

While many states will continue to ensure access to medication abortion, and are taking steps to ensure the drug will be available for all of those who need it, this is not the case for all. All survivors, regardless of where they live and their life circumstances, deserve access to abortion care.

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*The National Alliance to End Sexual Violence is the voice in Washington for the 56 state and territorial sexual assault coalitions and 1500 rape crisis centers working to end sexual violence and support survivors.*