

# WHY IS THE GOVERNMENT LIKE THIS



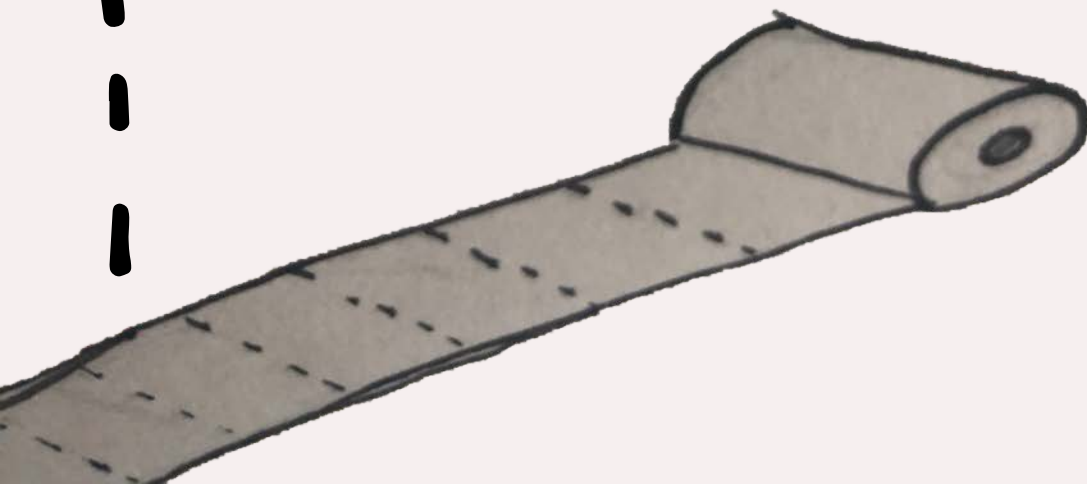
A zine about fighting for abortion  
access and reproductive justice in the  
age of COVID19

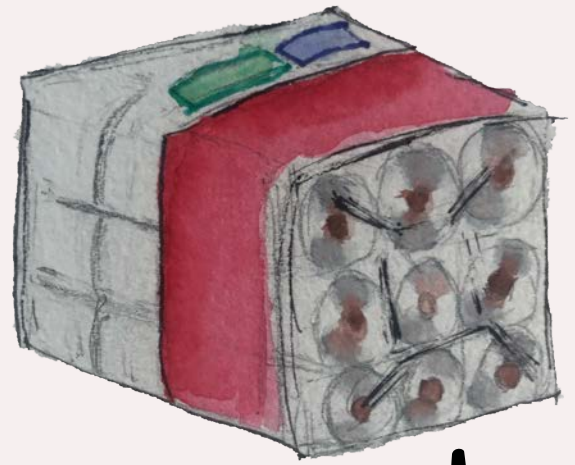
# How did we get here. . .

*The United States has become the epicenter of a global health crisis: the COVID-19 pandemic. The communities who have been hit hardest by the economic fallout of the pandemic are low-income people of color and low-wage workers in the service and retail industries, many of whom do not have paid sick time or healthcare.*

*Elderly people are also disproportionately impacted. Not only are they the most vulnerable to dying from COVID-19, they're also among the poorest.*

*The US is facing record number unemployment filings and many Americans are relying on mutual aid, food banks, and other forms of support to survive this unprecedented crisis.*





*Lilith Fund joined local advocates and organizers calls to Austin City leaders to provide immediate relief for the city including the city's most vulnerable, naming folks experiencing homelessness and people currently incarcerated in county jails in particular. Simultaneously, the city moved forward with plans to support residents including a 90-day eviction suspension.*

*Still, in April it was reported that one-third of people in the US did not make rent, and calls to suspend, forgive, and cancel rent continue to be made by people on the ground.*

*Strikes in workplaces are also on the rise, as essential workers are demanding more protection and hazard pay. In some cases, essential workers have experienced same-day victories after striking. Across the US, over 100 strikes have been reported by Payday Report.*

*Even as families are forced to balance safety with survival, and federal powers figure out a sufficient response, we witnessed state leaders throw a devastating wrench in the equation.*

# Meanwhile in Texas. . .

*Our Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick has expressed resistance to social distancing guidelines and claims our priority should be to “save the economy,” going as far as to claim that hundreds of elderly constituents had spoken to him and would rather risk their lives to “preserve the American Dream.” State leadership took their time declaring a state of emergency and Texas was the first state in the US to ease up on restrictions. Meanwhile, state officials still used their powers to interfere with abortion access.*

*At the end of March, Texas Governor Greg Abbott filed an executive order, suspending all “non essential” elective medical procedures. The next day, March 23, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton filed a simple press release, stating that abortion was considered “non-essential,” so in an effort they claim was intended to conserve personal protective equipment for medical personnel, it was effectively suspended.*

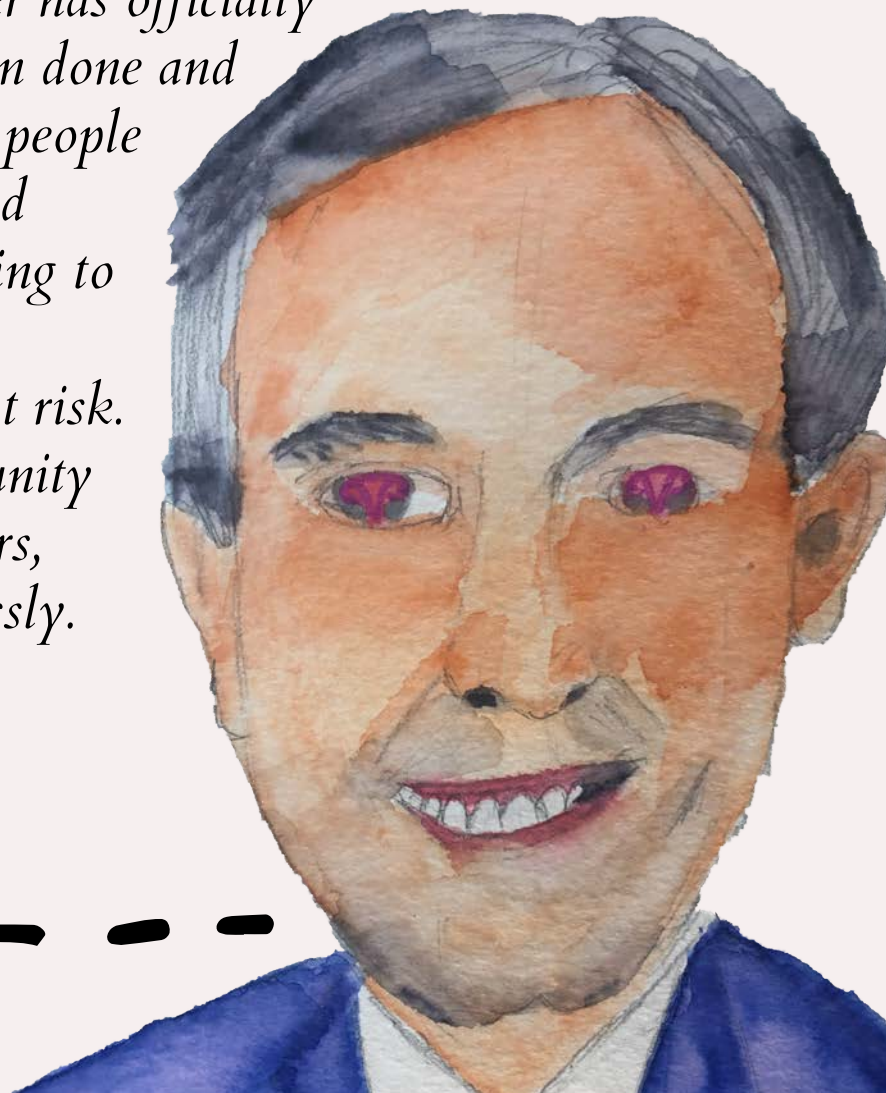




*Without citing any proof that abortion procedures use enough PPE that would warrant a suspension, abortion providers were left to appeal to the courts. This led to a three week judicial standoff between the state and abortion providers.*

*With every appeal and changing judgement, people in need of the time-sensitive procedure were made to wait, and in some cases travel as far as 2,000 miles to different states to get their procedures.*

*Although the executive order has officially expired, the damage has been done and our elected officials sent the people of Texas a message loud and clear: they will stop at nothing to attack abortion, even when people's lives and safety is at risk. They will use every opportunity to threaten abortion providers, and they will do it shamelessly.*





# How can we help now?

*We're definitely not out of the woods when it comes to preserving abortion access, or even making sure the most vulnerable among us can make it safely through this pandemic. How can we come together and work to make sure folks have what they need now?*

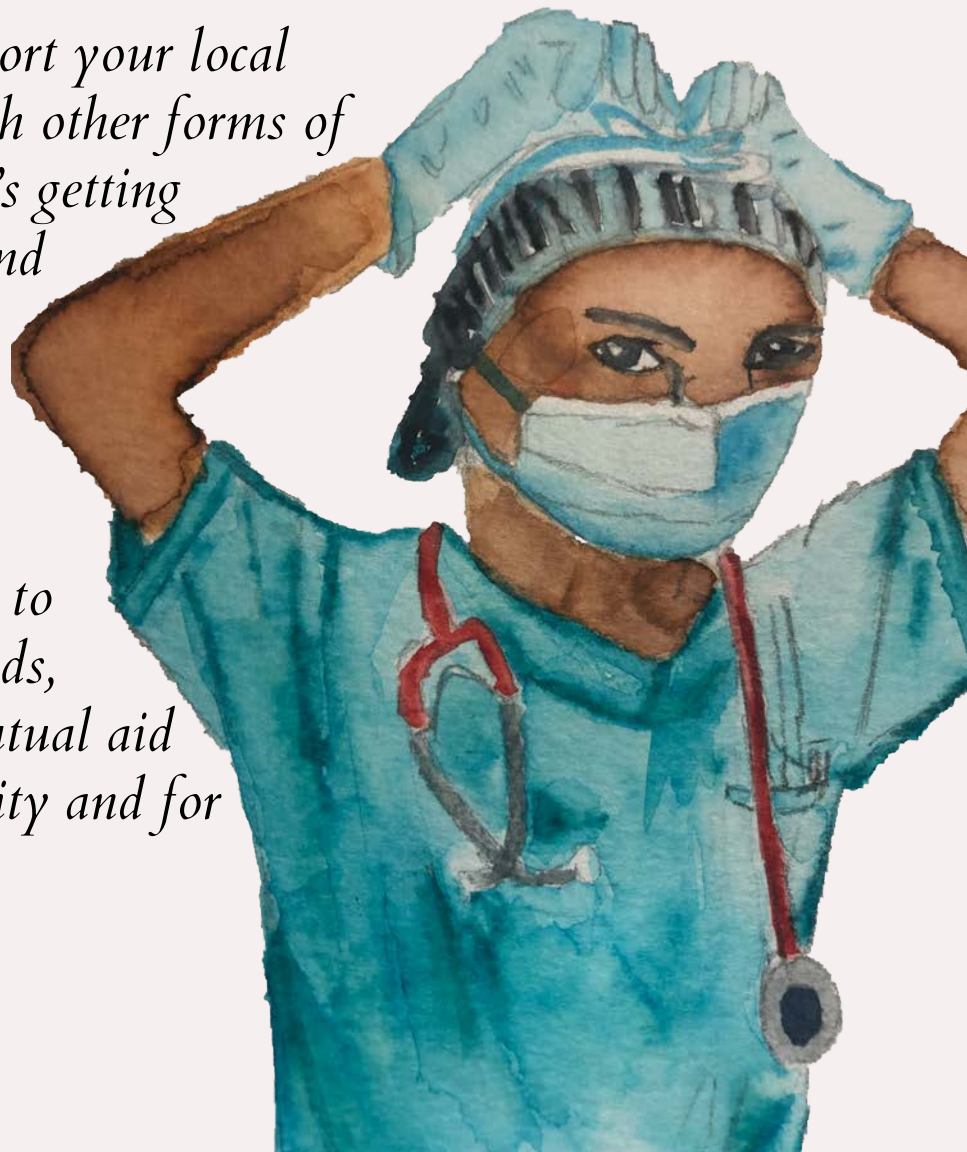
*Get to know your local, state and national officials. Get familiar with who those folks are and who we need to call when they pull something like this again. We still need our elected officials to do their job and pass legislation that will provide relief to all of us immediately.*

*Support workers: Currently, workers everywhere who are making sure that we're getting the food we need and the healthcare keeping our loved ones alive are at risk. We need to join them in support of their demands to make sure they can keep themselves and their loved ones safe through hazard pay and personal protective equipment.*

*Stand in solidarity with immigrants: on April 20, Trump declared another outright ban on immigration, citing safety concerns, even though undocumented folks were left out of the stimulus relief packages and are still at risk in detention. We demand justice for immigrants, as outlined by immigrant communities impacted.*

*#FreeThemAll: Currently abolition organizers are sounding the alarm for the risk that incarcerated folks face, including becoming infected and getting sick from COVID-19. We join them in saying free them all.*

*Finally, continue to support your local abortion funds, along with other forms of mutual aid. Currently, it's getting very hard for everyone, and low-income people in need of healthcare including abortion are hurting. If you can help financially, please donate to your local funds, bail funds, food banks, and other mutual aid funds driven by community and for community.*







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