

CPCs 101 with Gender Justice

[00:00:00] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** Hello, and welcome to a new episode of the Femtastic podcast. One topic that is very important to me. And yet somehow I have never covered up this podcast. Is that of crisis pregnancy centers. I did a lot of work on crisis pregnancy centers when I was getting my masters of public health and had learned about them before that, and was basically just horrified by them.

[00:00:21] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** But there's something that. Most people don't know anything about even people who consider themselves like super feminist and super up on progressive issues and super pro choice and pro-abortion and stuff. This is just a topic that for whatever reason, doesn't get that much press, but it should because it's absolutely bananas.

[00:00:42] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** So. I decided let's do a miniseries on this topic. So we are gonna have two episodes about crisis pregnancy centers. This is the first of those two episodes. You can think of this as crisis pregnancy centers, 1 0 1. And then the [00:01:00] second episode is going to delve a little bit deeper into some of the, the other misleading things that crisis pregnancy centers do that we wouldn't be able to cover in a single episode.

[00:01:14] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** So today on the podcast, I am joined by Erin May KU the advocacy director at gender justice and Megan Peterson, the executive director at gender justice and gender justice is a legal and policy advocacy organization working to advance gender equity through the law. And one of the major projects that gender justice has been a part of.

[00:01:39] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** Is focused on exposing the practices of crisis pregnancy centers or what you will hear me call CPCs for short. So we are gonna get into that today also by means of introduction. I will just say that Erin and Megan are both extremely impressive professionals in their own rights. Erin. Was a Minnesota [00:02:00] state representative.

[00:02:01] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** So that is very impressive. And she was a huge advocate for topics related to gender equity. So paid family leave, expanding access to affordable childcare, ending childhood hunger, eliminating gun violence, investing in treatment for mental than substance use issues. Like just very impressive. And then Megan Peterson, the executive director is.

[00:02:24] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** Also incredible. She was deputy director for the national network of abortion funds, which you may have heard on many episodes, us talking about the national network of abortion funds. She helped lead that organization through a period of significant growth and also was instrumental in their founding leader.

[00:02:42] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** In all above all, which is a national campaign to repeal the hide amendment. And I believe I've had two different folks from all above all on this podcast at different times. So you know, it's a, it's a big deal. These, these People have some real chops and are very qualified to [00:03:00] talk about this topic.

[00:03:01] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** So I'm super excited to have you hear from them today and to have you hear what crisis pregnancy centers are, how they are. Harmful to people, how they mislead people, both through their advertising and also through the services that they provide how they are dangerous and provide you know, a service that is not what appears to be.

[00:03:28] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** And then also how they're funded and how basically your tax dollars are funding them. But. As always, we do talk at the end about some ways that you can fight back and advocate against crisis pregnancy centers and. If you're like, I don't know what this is, but there's probably not any in my neighborhood.

[00:03:45] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** Think again, because there are a ton of crisis pregnancy centers in the country. There I, there are way more crisis pregnancy centers, way more than there are abortion clinics. So there may be one in your own neighborhood that you don't even know about [00:04:00] because you just haven't looked into it or it looks like it's a normal women's health clinic.

[00:04:04] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** Even though it's actually what we call a fake clinic because it's not a real clinic. It's just operating under the guise of a fake clinic so that it can encourage people to have babies and carry through with pregnancies and discourage people from abortion. So that is really their goal is to discourage people from abortion.

[00:04:26] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** So I hope you find this episode. Interesting. I hope you learn a lot and yeah, we will get into it now as always a few quick asks before we get started. Number one, this is my new ask. If you're

listening to this, please shoot me a DM on social media and just let me know that you are heard it because it makes me really happy to hear from folks.

[00:04:46] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** Number two, please subscribe to the Femtastic podcast on social media. And that would be Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. And then number three, subscribe to Femtastic podcasts on your podcast player so that you get [00:05:00] alerted every time. There's a new episode. And lastly, please, please, please leave a LA leave a rating and review on apple podcasts, particularly a good rating and a review on apple podcasts of Femtastic so that more people can find this podcast.

[00:05:16] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** And with that. Please enjoy this episode on crisis pregnancy centers or CPCs or fake clinics with Megan Peterson and Erin may cue of gender justice.

[00:05:30] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** Hello, welcome to the podcast.

[00:05:32] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** Thanks for having us. Yeah. Happy to

[00:05:34] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** be here.

[00:05:35] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** I'm very excited to have you here and to talk about a topic I've wanted to talk about for a long time and for some reason have it. So let's start off by having each of you introduce yourselves and tell us about the organization you work for and what you do.

[00:05:50] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** I'll start so I can let Megan introduce herself. And then the organization I'm Erin Maye Quade I use she/her pronouns. I am the advocacy director at gender justice, and [00:06:00] I'm also the campaign manager for unrestrict Minnesota, a campaign and coalition working to protect, expand, and destigmatize access to abortion care and all reproductive healthcare in the state in Minnesota.

[00:06:13] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** And I'm Megan Peterson. I use she/her pronouns. I'm the executive director at gender justice. We're a legal and policy advocacy organization working to advance gender equity through the law. We're based in Minnesota and really our focus primarily in Minnesota, but also connect with partners outside of our state, across the country, including

through a project called the Alliance state advocates for women's rights and gender equality.

[00:06:37] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** And that's a network of. State and regionally based law centers that are, you know, also trying to advance gender equity in our, our regions and nationally by, you know, collaborating on projects, including a project on exposing the practices of crisis pregnancy centers.

[00:06:56] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** Awesome. Well yes. So I think we got [00:07:00] introduced because of your work on crisis pregnancy crisis pregnancy centers.

[00:07:05] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** And again, I've wanted to talk about this for such a long time. It's a topic that I worked on somewhat in grad school and feel very passionate about. But I realized that. Most people have no idea what we're talking about when we say crisis pregnancy centers, or I know a lot of people prefer to use the term fake clinics.

[00:07:25] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** Cause that is what they are. So, you know, we're treating this episode as sort of like a 1 0 1, like let's dive in, like what are CPCs or crisis pregnancy centers. So let's are there, what is a crisis pregnancy center? So crisis

[00:07:41] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** pregnancy centers are anti-abortion organizations that seek to reach low income people facing unintended pregnancies to prevent them ultimately from accessing abortion care and contraception.

[00:07:53] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** And they advance this mission by using deceptive and coercive tactics, medical disinformation. And [00:08:00] also presenting themselves MIS misleadingly as medical facilities, and a lot of CPCs appear to be, you know, small individual independent organizations or really local, but the modern CPC industry is actually well resourced and has it's part of the global anti-abortion movement.

[00:08:17] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** And it's rapidly expanding in part because of public funding that are coming from state governments

[00:08:22] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** to

[00:08:23] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** CPCs. Yeah. And, you know, you mentioned, you know, it sort of looks like there are a lot of these independent ones, but it's part of this movement. Aren't most of them owned by like one organization or two organizations or something.

[00:08:41] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** I think of it almost

[00:08:42] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** more like they're a franchise in a way. Mm-hmm okay. You know, they're members of national or international organizations that provide a lot of their infrastructure, like their technology or the language that they use on their website or their. You know, they're like chat bot, you know, they, [00:09:00] they basically have a lot of resources that come from a central organization, but they, you know, appear in the community as being more yeah, kind of independent little, you know, Little clinics, little spots where you go to get a free pregnancy test or get a free ultrasound or pick up a pack of diapers or whatever.

[00:09:19] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** That's how they present themselves, you know, on, on the street corner.

[00:09:24] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** Right. And I'm sure we'll get into this a little later, but like, There's probably one in your community and you just haven't realized it. Oh, oh yeah. Yep. Okay, so let's sort of get into just first, what actual services do they provide and like, what do they do?

[00:09:42] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** And then. What services do they not provide? mm-hmm

[00:09:47] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** so what we know, I'll start with the last part of that question. So CDCs, virtually provide no medical care. So this is not a place where you can go to get, so I'm pregnant right now. I'm like I'm in my. Eighth month. [00:10:00] I'm very far along and I've had lots of ultrasounds where they've measured my amniotic fluid and Thele tube and you know, my placenta and her abdomen and you know, all these things, right.

[00:10:11] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** Her cranium and how big her brain is and what her valves are doing. If you go into a CPC, there are virtual know medical providers who are doing any of that. They often don't provide, you know, prenatal cares. Or even refer for prenatal care. Although sometimes

they'll say like, come in, talk to our specialists about all of your options and get the, you know, wellness care that you

[00:10:32] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** need.

[00:10:32] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** The, the diagnostic ultrasounds that like normal people get these are called keepsake ultrasounds that you get in and CPCs. And so they will just like show you the content of your uterus without. You know, diagnosing an ectopic pregnancy or a fatal fetal anomaly or, or any of the things that you would need to know.

[00:10:48] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** They, you know, a lot of times they'll advertise as having free items like one Zs or car seats or, you know, things that you can get for free, but really they're kind of offered on an [00:11:00] earn as you learn. Policy. And so you have to be subjected to ideologically based lectures and content and material in order to get vouchers to then go into like their stores.

[00:11:10] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** I'm using quotation marks to, to get free things.

[00:11:13] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** CPCs also promote false medical practices, and this is takes the form of abortion pill reversal in particular. So when you have a medication abortion, there's two pills in that protocol. Proponents, or I guess people who like to say that abortion pill reversal is a thing.

[00:11:29] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** What you would do is you would take a progesterone pill after the first medication, abortion pill. It's a pregnancy promoting hormone and hopes that it will reverse the abortion. There was a scientific study that they attempted to do about this. And they had to stop the study because a quarter of the people in the study got transported to the hospital for severe hemorrhaging.

[00:11:48] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** So the, the advertise misleading or unethical medical practices without providing real medical care. And then subject people to ideological content and you know, take up a lot of time. There was a report that came out a [00:12:00] few years ago that found that people thought that they had to continue with this ideological based counseling and, or, you know, parenting classes in order to be good parents.

[00:12:09] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** And there was a woman who lost her job. Because she had to choose between going to this like counseling or go to work. And so she lost her job. Got kicked out of her apartment and then ended up getting birth while unhoused. So like not great stuff going on at CPCs. Do you wanna talk about what some of

[00:12:24] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** the other stuff they do or don't do Megan again?

[00:12:26] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** Yeah. I mean, I think a lot of people get kind of pulled into CPC. They maybe took a home pregnancy test and are in denial or not trusting it or Or can't afford a, a home pregnancy test. And so, you know, are looking around for where they can confirm whether or not they are in fact pregnant. And, you know, if you Google like free pregnancy tests or.

[00:12:52] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** Pregnancy help or whatever. Like the first thing that's gonna pop up is ads for crisis pregnancy centers. And they really, really lean on this [00:13:00] like free pregnancy test, free ultrasound to get people in the door. And the reality is that the pregnancy test that they give are like, basically the exact same thing you could get at the dollar store or the grocery store or the Walgreens or whatever.

[00:13:14] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** It's the same test. And And like Aaron said, the ultrasounds are not diagnostic they're almost never performed by somebody who's a trained ultrasound technician or a radiologist. You know, they are essentially someone who has a basic knowledge of how to like pass a wand over your uterus. And then you tell you stories.

[00:13:35] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** About what they see in your uterus. And we hear very frequently that that information that they pretend is legitimate is really designed to make you believe, you know, have an attachment to your pregnancy or make you believe something about your gestational age. We've heard a lot of reports of false pregnancy dating based [00:14:00] on whether or not the people at the crisis pregnancy center believe you plan to seek an abortion.

[00:14:06] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** So one, there's a couple ways that can go one way is, you know, they might tell you you're a lot earlier in your pregnancy than you are to kind of. Make you believe you have a lot of time to make the decision and then, you know, encourage you to come back and keep

talking to them and basically like run out the clock on your ability to get abortion care in your community.

[00:14:29] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** Or on the flip side, they might tell you that you're later on than you really are. In order to convince you that you're too late to get an abortion. And so you should really be talking to them about adoption or about parenting. And so, you know, that's one of the things that I think is most alarming about their practices is they have this guise of being.

[00:14:50] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** Providing legitimate care that most people, you know, in a, in a situation where they really need help and they need free help, you know, aren't, [00:15:00] they're not in a position necessarily to discern, like, is this legit? Like, it looks legit. They're saying in ultrasound, especially

[00:15:06] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** the way that they advertise, like that's their whole thing.

[00:15:09] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** And the way

[00:15:10] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** that they dress, right. They're wearing scrubs, they've got stethoscopes. They, you know, they set up their, these buildings to look like clinics. And so it gives the illusion of legitimacy.

[00:15:19] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** Yeah, totally. Yeah. I mean, and they like put clinic in their names and well, and I also, like when you were talking about, you know, them making up stuff about gestational age, I feel like I've also read reports from like, like a big.

[00:15:34] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** Sort of investigation that California did a few years ago where they, like, there was one person who like wasn't even pregnant and yeah. She had an IU D yeah. And she came in and was like, I know I'm pregnant and like, blah, blah, blah. And they were like, Tell they were like, oh yes, this is your baby's like heart or whatever.

[00:15:51] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** And she had an ID. Yeah. Yeah. And then also other things like, you know, saying like, oh, like your, oh mama, this is your [00:16:00] baby. Like, look at its heartbeat or whatever, and just stuff. And

then with their abortion pill, reversal thing that has always blown my mind. Mm-hmm for so many reasons. Like the first being that it's like.

[00:16:16] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** Actually dangerous. And, and there are, you know, states pushing this and funding them. Mm-hmm and they're, and they're also, and they're advertising abortion pill reversal, which just, isn't a thing. Like it's not a thing. Right. So. That is wild to me that they would actually like put people in danger and states are like, oh yeah, let's fund this.

[00:16:38] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** Let's like be all for it.

[00:16:39] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** The other thing, can you just say something about abortion pill, reversal, not being a thing a little bit more because I feel like I feel sometimes frustrated that it's like the, the anti-abortion movement came up with this framing of, of kind of like. It fits into this idea that people who work to protect abortion access are somehow like [00:17:00] promoting abortion.

[00:17:01] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** You know, that it's like, we want people to get abortion. It's like, actually we just want people to have the care that they want and need, depending on what's best for them and their health and their lives. And so the abortion pill reversal thing just fits into this whole frame that the anti-abortion folks have.

[00:17:17] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** Cooked up, which is that like women regret their abortions and you know, and that like we're like pushing abortion on people. And the reality is that if there was a safe protocol for reversing an abortion midway through. Reproductive healthcare providers and advocates would want to know what it is and make it available to people.

[00:17:40] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** It would be available to people from your, from your doctor, exactly the same place where you got your first pill for medication abortion, you would get information about if you change your mind after taking this pill, here's what you would do. I mean, it also obscures the fact that. There's a lot of support that happens for abortion patients on the front end, where they're [00:18:00] counseled on their options and they talk through their decision to have an abortion, you know, like it just obscures the fact that.

[00:18:07] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** Abortion providers are there to provide a service that someone knows they want mm-hmm mm-hmm and not out there trying to like catch people, right?

[00:18:16] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** Like they've given, they've been given, they have informed consent also. So many of these states make people go through counseling anyway, in a waiting period.

[00:18:24] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** So if they've gotten to the point where they have received their abortion, they have a like gone through hoops to do so. Yeah. But yeah, I mean I, I that's that's exactly right. Like they know that. Because they're advertising this, they know that there aren't really any people seeking this out, but like you said, it goes, if it fits really well into their narrative of like, oh, you might regret this mm-hmm mm-hmm

[00:18:47] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** Which is a good segue to talk about some of the false things that they tell. Patients about abortion. So can you talk about some of those myths and like [00:19:00] lies that they tell people?

[00:19:02] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** Yeah, it's pretty wild. Yeah. So, I

[00:19:04] mean,

[00:19:04] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** I think one, the anti-abortion movement's been very successful at falsely.

[00:19:08] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** Painting abortion as something that's dangerous to your health and to your body. Abortion is incredibly safe. It's safer than having a tooth extracted or colonoscopy medication. Abortion is safer than over the counter Tylenol. Like it's a very safe procedure. All three, like a, you know, an abortion, a tooth extraction, colonoscopy.

[00:19:25] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** They're all very safe. Abortion is just the safest

[00:19:27] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** among the three and way safer than childbirth. It's

[00:19:31] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** way,

[00:19:32] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** 17 times than childbirth.

[00:19:34] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** So they'll

[00:19:34] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** falsely link abortion and breast cancer. You know, there's the, they made up this thing called like post-abortion

[00:19:40] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** de syndrome

[00:19:42] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** syndrome, or, you know, like depression around it.

[00:19:44] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** They will falsely link, you know, abortion to infertility breast cancer. Yep. Breast cancer. So they they're always, you know, they're, they're basically saying like, not only will you be having an abortion, but you'll be like linking yourself to, you know, these other things throughout. [00:20:00]

[00:20:00] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** And I think they really play on the relationship component.

[00:20:03] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** When people come into a CPC, you know, their goal overall is to make you feel really guilty. Mm-hmm, about wanting to do anything other than parent your child and you know, to they play on the relationship components as well. Like that getting an abortion will ruin your relationship. Assuming you're in one that.

[00:20:25] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** You know, your boyfriend or whatever will like never forgive you. I mean, they really They, you know, they really kind of whatever, the specific circumstance of the people coming into the CPC, like they will seek out whatever they consider to kind of be vulnerabilities mm-hmm that might push the person away from abortion.

[00:20:41] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** Yeah. Or, or,

[00:20:41] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** You know, if you're in a, an unsafe relationship, you know, oh, this will make him change. You know, people are my gosh. Yeah. Oh, that is a very common one. Like, he'll be different being a, you know, be a. There's also oh, what was I gonna say? I have pregnancy.

[00:21:00] I forgot what I was gonna say. Oh actually playing into the vulnerabilities, you know, you give an extensive, like they ask you really, really

personal in depth questions and collect from you, you know, your name, your address, your phone, number, your race, your mental health history, how much money you make you know, how much education you have.

[00:21:15] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** And so if you have like a history of anxiety or depression, bill that, and say like, you don't wanna have depression again, do you like this will give you depression or like that kind of stuff. We've had

[00:21:24] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** reports of people.

[00:21:25] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** In Minnesota, who've gone to CPCs. Who've had the police threaten the police called on them.

[00:21:30] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** If they leave and go, try to find and have an abortion. So it's, they use all these different tactics to shame and COE and, you know, instill fear in people to where they feel like they don't have any decisions to make that the

[00:21:42] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** only decision that they have is to

[00:21:44] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** continue with the pregnancy regardless of how safe or wanted

[00:21:47] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** it's or unwanted it's.

[00:21:48] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** So let's talk a little bit about their marketing and some of the marketing tactics they use and I can My first encounter with a crisis pregnancy center, I like was probably in [00:22:00] like 2015 and I knew what they were, but so I live in Boulder, Colorado. It's a university town and my office at the time was on it, like in the neighborhood where the university is.

[00:22:11] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** And I was like walking into my office and there were some like students handing out these like back to school bags that were like, you know promos and stuff from businesses in the community. So like a dis like a coupon for pizza, or like a notebook or things like that. And one of the like pamphlets in there was this very like cute, well designed brochure about like, Like worried you might be pregnant.

[00:22:35] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** Mm-hmm and it was like really cute branding and like looked legit. And it was a pre, like I knew I was like, this is a crisis pregnancy center. So I Googled it. Of course that's what it was. And like very, very tiny print. There was something about like, it being connected to like the arch diocese of something or of their like very tiny print at the bottom.

[00:22:55] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** But if you're a college student, you get this and you're back to school thing, like. [00:23:00] Of course, you're gonna be like, oh, it's well designed it. You know, it looks good. You're gonna be like, oh yeah, of course, like, you know, I might be pregnant or I, I, I am pregnant and like, I, I, I do need this. So mm-hmm it was the first time I was like, whoa.

[00:23:16] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** And then I realized the one that was advertised. I think it was in like the next town over. But I did realize, and I'm sure it'll talk about this in a second. There was a crisis pregnancy center across the street from planned parenthood. Yep. There's a planned parenthood in Boulder and there's a crisis pregnancy crisis pregnancy center across the street.

[00:23:33] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** And it had, I know you're gonna talk about this too. The name was like, so close to like sounding like. A planned Parador like a, like a, a true reproductive health clinic or abortion clinic. It was wild. So anyway, that's my story.

[00:23:51] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** yeah. I mean, so yes, they, they really do a lot of work to kind of dominate the algorithm.

[00:23:56] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** And so, you know, if, if you type in free pregnancy tests [00:24:00] or abortion, even. Crisis pregnancy centers typically rise to the top and then their ads will be above that too. And they do like extensive geocaching too. So they like target advertisements to specific areas, to specific populations. They use a lot of what I call black washing.

[00:24:15] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** So they'll have, you know, in areas where there's a high black population, they'll have a lot of black women that'll appear are on their website to appear like it's, you know, for the community of the community. And then, yeah, so like a really good example of the name. So even though planned parenthood certainly has a highest name, recognition.

[00:24:29] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** Most abortions are performed at, at independent clinics. And so we had one here in Minnesota, they changed their name to we health, but it used to be like the women's health center and the. One, the crisis pregnancy center across the street was the women's health clinic. And so, you know, you it's literally right across the street, their colors were similar.

[00:24:46] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** Their design was similar. So you've made an appointment and you are like, no, you've made an appointment, but you've never gone here before. You've is it women's health clinic? Is it women's health center and they do post up near. Reproductive health clinics on purpose [00:25:00] and mimic the name and mimic, mimic the you know, logo and design.

[00:25:03] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** And then they also have those like street harassers that will stand outside of the clinics. That'll be like, no, no, you need to go over there. You're supposed to be going over there. Right. And try to divert patients away from, from

[00:25:14] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** reproductive health

[00:25:14] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** clinics. This reminds me, I will link in the show notes to the John Oliver segment on this.

[00:25:20] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** Yes. Don't believe what we're talking about. John Oliver a couple years ago, did an amazing segment on crisis pregnancy centers and like showed like everything you're talking about like happening in real life. Like this is not made up or rare. Yeah. So I will link to that. Cause it is a must watch.

[00:25:39] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** Yep.

[00:25:39] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** Yeah, no, that is a great episode. And I mean, I think the other thing is that unfortunately, two crisis pregnancy centers are far more prevalent. Like there's just more of them yeah. Than there are abortion clinics there's way, or even like planned Parenthoods that don't provide abortion. In the study that.

[00:25:56] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** The Alliance put out together that looked at the crisis pregnancy [00:26:00] center in nine states, we found across those nine states, there were 607 crisis pregnancy centers compared to

230 abortion clinics. And in Minnesota, it's really bad. I think we have six abortion clinics and like 98 crisis pregnancy centers have.

[00:26:18] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** And Minnesota is a state where the state provides funding 3 million a year to crisis pregnancy centers. Pennsylvania as well. And states that provide state funding do tend to have more crisis pregnancy centers. And the other piece that's actually really scary about both the, you know, colocation of CPCs and abortion clinics and just the number of them is that Abortion clinics that are in close proximity to a crisis pregnancy center are seven times more likely to experience property violence.

[00:26:49] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** Mm-hmm you know, they just tend to have kind of more of a hotbed of anti-abortion harassment and protestors and, you know, people who take harmful action against [00:27:00] the clinic facility itself and the people who work there and the people who work there mm-hmm . Yep. Yeah.

[00:27:05] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** Yeah. So, and then with, I wanna talk about the funding because I know yeah, like you said, like a lot of states fund them.

[00:27:15] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** I don't know if this has changed during the Biden administration, but I know during the Trump administration they changed title five rules and title five is a maternal child health block grant. Or actually, no, it's not title five. It's one of it's title eight, 10, that's the reproductive or the family planning one.

[00:27:32] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** I work in, I work in title five. I don't work in title 10. all good. Title, 10 title five in internal child health title 10 is the family planning one. Yeah. And the Trump administration obviously correct me if I'm wrong, change the rules. And tho those rules to two things well, more than two things, but the two things I'm gonna say they, that this is what you may have heard of is like the domestic gag rule.

[00:27:55] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** Mm-hmm so Clinics who talked about abortion at all. Even if they were [00:28:00] like discussing as an option or like, you know, saying there's this place where you could get an abortion, they were no longer eligible for title 10 funding, which is a huge funding stream. So a lot of places like were relying on that funding and had to just like.

[00:28:16] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** To actually go by the gag rule and stop doing this. Some organizations like planned parenthood is obviously very well funded. They just said, well, we're not gonna participate in title 10. But the other thing is that it allowed CPCs to get federal funding, which they definitely do not deserve. . So where are we with that in 2022?

[00:28:39] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** Because not that the Biden administration has been Living up to its promises on reproductive health protection protections. The state of the union was two days ago and Biden didn't say abortion. Yes. He used the euphemism about healthcare instead of actually just saying abortion. And he also looped it in with like maternal health and something else.

[00:28:56] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** And very frustrating and rose was probably gonna be overturned. [00:29:00] And also they didn't ask the women's health protection act like a couple days ago, so yay. But anyway, I digress

[00:29:05] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** the filibuster strikes again. Mm-hmm . Mitch.

[00:29:08] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** So anyway, yes. What is going on with the policy landscape, like related to funding of crisis pregnancy centers and lack of funding for.

[00:29:16] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** Real clinics. Yeah. And I'll, I'll let

[00:29:19] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** Megan see sex. I actually don't know what happened federally. So like in Minnesota, for example, our funding stream comes through what we call the positive alternatives to abortion statute. And these are grants that are given out by the Minnesota department of health.

[00:29:31] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** And so if we remember back to what we were talking about, abortion pill, reversal, state funded, sea APCs are actually more likely to advertise abortion flow reversal. So that means in the state of Minnesota, CPCs are receiving money from the Minnesota department of health to advertise an unsafe discredited and unethical medical practice.

[00:29:52] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** Yeah. In Minnesota they receive 3.35 million per year. So it's like seven to 7 million per B I every two [00:30:00] years.

[00:30:00] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** And

[00:30:00] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** the rules stipulate that you can't, you know, talk about abortion. You can't refer for abortion, you can't counsel about abortion. And you know, it's, it is this huge gag rule that means that, you know, abortion funds clinics that provide.

[00:30:13] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** Maternal healthcare and abortion care, cuz you know, abortion care is part of pregnancy care. Can't receive these funds and we know that clinics are closing all over the country because it is expensive to run a clinic. And a lot of clinics do have like regular clinics get funding from the government and as they keep putting in these gig rules You know, you can only hike prices up so high before people can't afford your services at all.

[00:30:36] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** And especially,

[00:30:36] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** and they have all these other restrictions that are totally medically unnecessary, where clinics have to be like. Separate from like the rest of reproductive health. They're like siloed in like their own clinics. Instead of being part of like a family practice. Mm-hmm, theres all these trap laws about like, well, you have to have hospital admitting privileges or the halls have to be this wide mm-hmm

[00:30:58] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** or you have to use a specific
[00:31:00] data reporting system that costs money to use in the maintain or right to maintain these records for seven years.

[00:31:06] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** And, and

[00:31:06] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** you're gonna need security. Yeah, so it is not cheap. It was very difficult and extensive to even provide the self care.

[00:31:14] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** Yeah. I mean, I think what's frustrating is that we know that there are very real, very serious, very problematic gaps in the healthcare system for pregnant people that result in, you know, United States having, you know, some of the very worst maternal health outcomes and even especially worse for.

[00:31:32] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** Black mothers and you know, people of color broadly that, you know, there is no question that there is a need

for more maternal and pregnancy support across the country. And the CPCs are pretending to like, fill that gap and soak up public resources. You know, in addition to title 10, like you mentioned a lot of CPCs have also successfully applied for funds from TANIF, which is [00:32:00] temporary aid for needed families, essentially the welfare system.

[00:32:02] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** So it's like a federal program that is supposed to be reporting families who are struggling to make ends meet. And instead, you know, it's going to like. Pay the salary of someone whose whole job is essentially to lie about abortion. Yeah. I mean, it's just absurd and it's, you know, people

[00:32:20] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** and who's providing no actual healthcare that would prevent actual

[00:32:25] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** or actual like help getting out of poverty.

[00:32:28] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** Yeah. There, I mean, there really is a, like, there is a need

[00:32:31] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** for people to get free pregnancy. And free car seats and one Zs and free access to pre that is a real demonstrated need. And what sucks is that the people who provide those things don't get the assistance from the government. And then the government is giving assistance to people, to, you know, coerce and deceive and, and shame people for wanting to talk about their options related to maintaining a private or deciding not.

[00:32:56] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** Yeah. You alluded a little bit to. Sort of their [00:33:00] targeting practices of like targeting mm-hmm disproportionately marginalized communities. Can you talk a little bit more about that? Sure.

[00:33:08] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** I mean, if you think about the population of folks who need something that's free and so it is not uncommon for people's first interaction with a crisis pregnancy center to be, to confirm a pregnancy.

[00:33:18] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** I couldn't afford Nancy test or I couldn't safely take one at home. You know, there are people who need to

confirm a pregnancy and have a legitimate letter of confirmation, or to continue with an immigration case or to continue, you know, with the proceedings to bring somebody, you know, the father

[00:33:32] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** get on snap or sign up for WIC or whatever.

[00:33:35] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** Exactly. So

[00:33:36] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** So, you know, when you think about the folks who are, who need free services, and then you think about folks you know, people who have abortions are most typically parents already. So they're usually people who already have children. And then you, you know, you can find CPCs in parts of towns where people make.

[00:33:52] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** Less right. Lower income neighborhoods. And so they target specifically low income people. And then in particular you know, people of color, [00:34:00] and I mentioned specifically like the black washing and then you have sites that are in Spanish and that kind of stuff too. So they specifically target a certain group of people to receive medical misinformation, to receive.

[00:34:11] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** Specific one specific religions based counseling. It is it's offensive, right? It just, it takes more agency away from the people who are just trying to figure out what they're going to do or get access to resources. You know, it's true that some people are tricked into going into CPCs, but a lot of people who go into CPCs know what they're going into and need stuff.

[00:34:30] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** And so we should be providing that. We just don't need to use CPCs to pretend to.

[00:34:35] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** Yeah. Yeah, totally. So a couple more questions. So let's say that you're in the community, you see a sign or you get a pamphlet or you Google like free pregnancy test. How do people spot whether a clinic is a real clinic or a CBC?

[00:34:57] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** That's a. I

[00:34:58] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** mean, the first thing I would ask is, do you [00:35:00] provide abortion care here or refer to places

[00:35:01] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** that provide abortion care? They might not tell you the truth. They

[00:35:05] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** might. I've heard though. Yeah. I've heard that they don't, they don't necessarily tell the truth. What can you ask? I guess, I mean, like for me, the, the, the glaring part for when I looked at, at the website of this place was like the fine print about being the archdiocese.

[00:35:24] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** I think it also had a part. I think it also said something about abortion pill reversal. So I was like, okay. Yeah, that'll be a flag. Yeah. Yep. No, that's not a legitimate health service and no one, no legitimate clinic would. Advertise that.

[00:35:38] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** Yeah. I think also if there's a lot of you know, discussion about God mm-hmm or about, you know, or very kind of idealized story about the role of children or mothers and fathers and, you know, in society, like those are kind of flags too calling you mama, you

[00:35:58] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** know?

[00:35:58] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** Yeah. Or, or like immediately.
[00:36:00] Personalizing your, your situation, the baby. Yeah.

[00:36:03] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** Oh, the other thing that was on that website was it's I feel like options was in the name. Mm. And there was like a PA like a webpage about options or whatever. And the options were like, Adoption or having your

[00:36:16] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** baby yeah,

[00:36:18] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** yeah, yeah, yeah.

[00:36:20] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** A lot of times it will kinda advertise as like we'll help you talk, you know, think through your options and they'll appear to include abortion in that. But don't actually, I mean, this is the problem. It's really hard. It's really tricky. Like they're really. Smart and sophisticated and they know what their agenda is.

[00:36:37] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** And, you know, unlike real health clinics, they don't have to provide an actual service. They can stop up donations and stop upstate funding and, you know, take money to. You know, have a storefront where all they do is guilt

[00:36:52] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** and shame you, right? The national network of abortion funds is a great place. Like you can call an abortion [00:37:00] fund and ask them like, Hey, where are the abortion clinics in my state?

[00:37:03] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** It's N N A F is a great place to start. And then there's ACN the care network. They also have all of the independent clinics I believe, listed as well. So that's where I would go for resources to find a real clinic. If it's not listed there. Then I would assume that it's a crisis pregnancy

[00:37:18] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** center. Yeah.

[00:37:20] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** Or, you know, like, let let's say you're pregnant. Like you said, you just need a free test. You're not necessarily looking for an abortion. You're looking for like an actual clinic, like with an OB GY and whatever. I feel like. That's also, probably something that like N N A F could help you figure out or you could call like your local, like county public health department, or Google, like federal federally qualified health centers near me.

[00:37:47] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** Or if you have insurance which I know many people don't have insurance, you know, go to your insurance website and you don't search for a provider or just search for like Google, like family practice clinic. Cause [00:38:00] if you're, if you're pregnant and you want legitimate medical care in the beginning stages of pregnancy, it's perfectly fine.

[00:38:09] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** And even some people go all the way through pregnancy. You just go to a family practice, PR practitioner primary care physician that you would go to if you had a cold, like they're perfectly qualified to like, Help you and either, you know, see you through your pregnancy or refer you to an OB GY who, you know, is in a different setting.

[00:38:26] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** So

[00:38:28] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** yeah, I mean, a family planning clinic would be a good, you know, alternative. And so that could be a question

you ask, like, do you provide. Can I get contraceptions or can I get my birth control prescription refilled? Because the majority of crisis pregnancy centers do not, I mean, nearly all of them do not provide any contraception or even like contraception counseling beyond, you know, Don't do it don't have sex.

[00:38:53] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** Yeah. I mean, a lot of the, there was a video that

[00:38:56] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** was just released recently. I think it was, was it Pennsylvania? Or it was [00:39:00] some state New Mexico or, or something. And they had like gone in and they were like, well, you know, birth control really doesn't work all that. Well, like Virginia, Virginia, you like, you probably don't even wanna use that.

[00:39:08] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** Cause

[00:39:09] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** it doesn't really work. Yeah. They gave out bad at data on like condoms,

[00:39:13] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** like Oliver thing too.

[00:39:18] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** Yeah. Oh yeah. And

[00:39:19] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** that interview, it was like condoms don't work. Birth control doesn't work. You might as well just go for it. yep. Might

[00:39:25] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** as well just don't have sex. Well, and this is part of the problem too, is that we're having a rise in STIs.

[00:39:30] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** And so a lot of the services that they pretend to offer is like, STI treatment when, I mean, if you're not offering like barrier method contraception, or, or talking about how to prevent STIs other than abstinence, then like you're not helping you know, prevent STI

[00:39:45] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** crisis. And also if you don't have any actual medical providers, there's, you can't treat STIs like you, you need prescriptions for that.

[00:39:53] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** So, yep.

[00:39:55] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** We know in Minnesota, there's a crisis pregnancy center where they're like, we have a medical provider [00:40:00] on staff and it's like an optometrist. Oh, that's cool. Cool. And, and no shades, optometrist love optometrist. Yeah, of course. not qualifying to talk to me about my uterus,

[00:40:09] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** right? Yeah. Yeah. Or they're like, oh, we, we have Right.

[00:40:13] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** Like a, an MD on on staff, but it's like an opt, an optometrist. That's on call. Like it's not act, the person is not actually there. They're just like listed and like technically

[00:40:23] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** on call. Right. And for what on call for what? I'm, if there's like an eye emergency, like it's just such a weird. A weird facet or they'll, they'll say, you know, we have a number of medical professionals on our board and it's like a chiropractor and an optometrist and like a dentist.

[00:40:39] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** And it's like, well, technically you're you're. Yeah. But none of these things are useful to any of the people who are walking

[00:40:44] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** through your yes.

[00:40:45] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** So I wanna talk a little bit about out, like how you stop these, because I know. A couple years ago, California tried. And it seems right. Like, it should be a open and [00:41:00] shut case where it's like, you are falsely advertising, medical care and doping people into it.

[00:41:05] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** And it's like very clear what you're doing and that you're duping people. So how has this legal yeah. What sort of challenges have, have there been and have they have been successful or not? And then like, where do we go from here?

[00:41:18] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** Yeah, unfortunately it's really. More challenging than it seems like it should be.

[00:41:25] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** And that I think just reflects something we all always have to remember, which is that. You know, our judicial system is comprised of judges who make decisions and they have

agendas too. Mm-hmm and so it has definitely been the case that I think courts have twisted themselves into pretzels to find ways to give crisis pregnancy centers.

[00:41:48] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** A path part of that path on a path has been the fact that generally crisis pregnancy centers are not. Charging for their services. And so they kind of fall [00:42:00] outside of a lot of states consumer protection laws. And unfortunately the first amendment has been interpreted, interpreted in particular, the freedom of.

[00:42:09] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** Speech component of it to be like extremely broad for them, for them yeah, for them not for, you know, abortion providers who are forced to give false information through, you know, mandated counseling scripts by their states. But for crisis pregnancy centers, they can say whatever they want. And so that has been, you know, a big a big kind of loophole.

[00:42:28] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** Part of the challenge is, is this free speech exception that gets applied that benefits the CPC, but not the people seeking services. And so, you know, that is part of the work that gender justice and our partners in Alliance continue to do is to look for opportunities to find paths. To, yeah, really just like, make it clear that these practices are not acceptable.

[00:42:53] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** I mean, I think the first step is. We have to get rid of the funding, the state funding that exists. Like [00:43:00] I think a huge gap is just that people don't know these places exist. Right. Or they only know because they ended up at one. And even then, you know, I think a lot of times people don't fully put two and two together about what that experience was and that it was funded through, you know, tax dollars.

[00:43:15] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** And so defunding is the first thing. Public education is just a huge, huge component and then more support for. Actual legitimate healthcare providers, so that there aren't these big gaps in the care network that CPCs can exploit. You know, I don't know that there is like a magical lawsuit solution that shuts all these places down.

[00:43:38] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** I guess theoretically, you know, there could be. Legislation federally or at the state level to help, you know, get clear that like non diagnostic ultrasounds can't be performed mm-hmm for instance, or you know, other restrictions, but like pretty much, you know, I think

it's safe to say that the anti-abortion movement has so many resources that That those sort of legislative efforts will [00:44:00] probably end up back in court and it's, you know, we'll, we would have to see what happens there, but the public education and like people being aware and being outraged about these practices, I think is the first and most crucial kind of step to really being able to make any long term change.

[00:44:15] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** Yeah.

[00:44:15] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** They operate without resistance. And I think that's part of, part of the problem. I, there's also like smaller ways, you know a lot of these places exist in. Commercial districts within their cities and towns and are zoned to be there because they're medical clinics when they don't provide medical care.

[00:44:32] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** So there was a, a CPC here in Minnesota that was looking to expand my gosh, like by five times and a group of people in the it's like a, a suburban town, they organized to kind of shine a light on what they do and don't do what they managed to get the the planning commission to block the approval of the plan.

[00:44:50] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** However, the city attorney then when it was supposed to go to the city council, the city attorney told the pro-choice members of the city council that they had to recuse themselves from the vote [00:45:00] so that it ended up passing. So it, that was really sneaky, but it did end up working kind of through those bureaucratic channels to be like, this is, this is only zoned for commercial business or clinics.

[00:45:10] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** They are neither. And they're asking to be five times bigger and that was enough. That was enough for the planning commission to be like, yeah, I don't know what they're doing there, but they're not doing anything that they're zoned to do. So zoning laws you know, working with your city, there are city ordinances that require some CPCs to say, like what we do and don't do here.

[00:45:26] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** Like we don't provide medical care here, abortion care here. I think that's Hartford, Connecticut. So there are, are like really hyper localized things that folks can do. Outside of, you know, lobbying your legislature and, and getting some of those funding streams cut off or the particulates attached to it changed.

[00:45:43] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** Right. Mm-hmm, opening it up so that. You have to, you know, if you're gonna provide ultrasounds or diagnostic, if you're gonna provide pregnancy tests, they're free. They have to actually be free from other strings. Not just free money

[00:45:57] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** free from money. Yeah. Like not being forced [00:46:00] to do an eight week parenting class in order to get your free thing.

[00:46:03] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** Yeah, yeah.

[00:46:07] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** Yeah. I mean, I think like it's a great idea. You know, it can be hard depending on where you live. To lobby like your state legislator, legislators, for example, and like, try to get your laws changed at the federal level. But like you said, like there actually are, there's a lot you could do at the local level.

[00:46:31] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** So if there's one in your community, you could definitely like generate some noise around that. Mm-hmm and, and share

[00:46:38] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** the report with your legislators. Right? You don't have to be the expert. We put the report together. So that if that information is available and you can share that with legislators, because it's likely that they don't know how bad these are and the information might be enough to

[00:46:51] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** disperse some change.

[00:46:52] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** Yeah. And then I know, like, you know, every, every state has like slightly different laws about consumer protection, [00:47:00] but like your state. The consumer protection stuff. This might fall under consumer protection or I don't, I don't know if this is typical, but like in Colorado, a lot of consumer protection stuff is under the state attorney general mm-hmm and the state attorney general is very progressive.

[00:47:14] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** And so if you like are contact, if you contact the state attorney General's office and like, those are elected officials and you let them know, this is something you care about. Like, it is literally their job to do consumer protection stuff. So like. They're up for reelection. Mm-hmm my state attorney general is up for reelection in November, 2022.

[00:47:34] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** So definitely things that you can do even when the federal government is a dumpster fire and the Supreme court of the dumpster fire, like you can do that. You can, you gonna have laws that specifically ban deceptive practices of CPCs, like at the state and local level. So. There are things that can be done.

[00:47:55] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** And then of course, like your local or both going through your state attorney general or like your state [00:48:00] legislators, they're the ones that could be. That could be in charge of changing the fact that they're getting state funding. Mm-hmm yes. Yeah.

[00:48:08] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** I mean, really ultimately it's about, you know, motivation, political momentum with the, you know, looming threat of Roe being overturned and.

[00:48:17] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** You know, up to half the states in this country, banning abortion, the crisis pregnancy center industry is really poised to play a role in surveilling, pregnant people who are seeking abortion care. And that is something that I think will hopefully really get people's attention. It is. Really bleak when you kind of dig into that, there's already a number of bills in state legislatures seeking to resource and like develop more formal partnerships between crisis pregnancy centers and the state that, you know, could require people to go to a crisis pregnancy center before seeking in a abortion.

[00:48:56] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** Being assigned a unique kind of tracking number [00:49:00] at the crisis pregnancy center that gets put into a database that the state runs and you wouldn't be able to obtain an abortion unless you can provide that code so that it, you can, so the state can track you from crisis pregnancy center to abortion clinic, right?

[00:49:13] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** I mean, it's next level Gilia stuff. Yeah. It's bad. It's really bad. And you know, I think we should anticipate that the crisis pregnancy center industry is going to play a huge role in this next chapter. And it's a very scary role mm-hmm and so we need to be doing everything we can right now to defund them.

[00:49:38] **Megan Peterson, Gender Justice:** You know, help shut them down, basically. That's, that's where we're at. that's yeah, it's a key piece of people

being able to get the care they need and restore their reproductive rights and freedoms, you know, in the post row world. Yeah.

[00:49:55] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** Woo. Well, Thank you both for being here. And [00:50:00] talking about this it's such important work and I really appreciate you coming on and taking the time to explain it and, and all of the work that you're doing really appreciate that someone is out there fighting for this.

[00:50:10] **Erin Maye Quade, Gender Justice:** Thank you. Yeah. Thanks for having us. Yeah. Thanks for helping to spread the word. Yes, anytime.

[00:50:15] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** Really. thank you for listening to another episode of Femtastic. Stay tuned for part two of this mini series on crisis pregnancy centers, where we will be diving into an additional. Shady practice of crisis pregnancy centers and how they use the data of the folks who come through their doors and they violate the privacy of those people in ways that are.

[00:50:43] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** Really alarming and scary and potentially have really terrible legal implications for those clients, especially as more and more restrictive abortion laws get past that will criminalize abortion. [00:51:00] So please stay tuned for that episode. It'll be the next episode that comes out. So two weeks from when this episode is released and yeah, that's about it.

[00:51:09] **Katie Breen, Femtastic:** Thank you for listening.