

Frontera Fund

[00:00:00] **Katie Breen:** Hello, and welcome to a new episode of the Femtastic podcast. This is your host, Katie Breen. Today on the podcast, again, we are talking about abortion restrictions because we live in America and it's somewhat of a hellscape for abortion access, even though we're in 2021. And if you've been paying attention, that SCOTUS basically indicated that they're probably going to overturn Roe V. Wade in June 2022. So Texas is a sneak peek of a little bit of what that is going to be like after Roe is overturned. It'll actually be even worse than Texas because well, , you'll figure out why as we do the episode, but as you may or may not know, and I've done episodes on this before, on September 1st, 2021, Texas SB 8 or Senate Bill 8, went into effect. And what [00:01:00] SB8 does is outlaw abortions in Texas after six weeks. And for people who find out they're pregnant before six weeks, which a lot of people don't even know they're pregnant until after six weeks, and then if they are able to get an abortion that is still possible in Texas, but it's very difficult as we will also get into. With all that being said, I really wanted to talk to someone who is on the ground in Texas, serving people who are seeking abortions and who can tell us a bit about the effects of SB 8. So with us is Zaena Zamora, who is the executive Director of the Frontera Fund.

[00:01:43] The Frontera Fund is an abortion fund. They work on making abortion accessible in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. It's about three hours south of San Antonio, so right on the border. And they do so by providing financial and practical support for people seeking abortions. [00:02:00] So Zaena and I are talking today about what she has seen on the ground since SB 8 went into effect.

[00:02:08] So we'll talk about what it's like to have to send callers out of state now, for those who are able to travel out of state; we talk a lot about the really difficult issue that people who are undocumented face, where there are ICE and border security checkpoints up to 100 miles north of the US- Mexico border.

[00:02:33] So it's very difficult for undocumented people, or it can be very scary and risky for undocumented people to travel. Of course, undocumented people who live in Texas cannot get on an airplane. They are not able to get driver's licenses. So it's even a risk of, they could be pulled over even if they are outside of that 100 mile radius.

[00:02:55] And yeah, it's pretty scary, for people who are undocumented because they [00:03:00] already can't travel super freely. And then when

someone's seeking an abortion, requires traveling in order to get that abortion because they can't get one locally then. Yeah. It's just definitely most disproportionately impacts those who have the least resources.

[00:03:18] So. We're going to talk about all of that. We're also going to talk about how the courts have made this really chaotic and confusing and what's been happening in the courts. How SCOTUS has basically said that they're going to let this stand. So that's pretty scary. And then lastly, we'll talk about what people can do to help, what you can do to help whether you live in Texas or you live in a super liberal state, whether you have money to donate to abortion funds, or you don't have money to donate to abortion funds, we have some practical advice for ways that you can help.

[00:03:53] So thank you for listening and as always a few quick asks.

[00:04:00] Number one, please rate and review this podcast on Apple Podcasts so that more people can find it because that's the number one way that people find out about podcasts. Number two, please follow Femtastic on social media. That is Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. And number three, if you don't already, please subscribe to Femtastic Podcast on whatever podcast player you use. And that's about it. Without further ado here is Zaena Zamora the Executive Director of the Frontera fund in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas.

[00:04:37] Hi, Zena. Thank you for joining us.

[00:04:40] **Zaena Zamora:** Katie. Thank you for having me.

[00:04:42] **Katie Breen:** Yeah. So was very started to talk to someone who's on the ground in Texas, really seeing the impact of SB8 and I know particularly you are close to the border and I'm sure your fund is very involved with assisting an immigrant community [00:05:00] in abortion access. So really glad to talk to you today and yeah. Can you just start off by introducing yourself? Who are you? What are you doing?

[00:05:10] **Zaena Zamora:** Sure. My name is Zaena Zamora I'm the Executive Director of Frontera Fund - it's an abortion fund in Texas. We mainly serve the Rio Grande Valley, which is four counties in the southernmost part in Texas.

[00:05:23] But in response to Senate bill eight, which is the extreme anti-abortion bill that was passed in Texas, we expanded our services to include the entire border region. So from Brownsville to El Paso we're helping people with financial assistance. So that means we help pay for people's abortions and

with travel care. So we help pay for any travel costs associated with abortion care in Texas.

[00:05:47] **Katie Breen:** Okay, great. So SB8 went into effect September 1st, I believe.

[00:05:55] **Zaena Zamora:** Yes.

[00:05:55] **Katie Breen:** What impact have you seen since then on the clients you're [00:06:00] serving and forgive me if you don't think of them as clients. I don't know what term you all prefer, but.

[00:06:05] **Zaena Zamora:** You're correct. The Senate bill eight went into effect September 1st. It was signed into law over the summer, but it went into effect September 1st. And the impact has been enormous on people here in Texas. Most of our callers, if not all of our callers, recently have been having to travel out of state. So that is a huge burden to have to face when you're trying to get abortion care. Especially geographically where my fund is located and the people that we serve, we are the furthest away from any state border. So we have to travel the furthest to leave the state and Texas is surrounded by a number of states, but two of the bordering states in Texas are not necessarily friendly abortion states; they also have very strict restrictions. I'm talking about Louisiana and Oklahoma. So most our callers - we call them our callers - most of our [00:07:00] callers are going to New Mexico, which is around a 12 hour drive if you're driving from the valley. They're bypassing Oklahoma and going to Kansas, which is around a 15 hour drive because it's easier to get an abortion in Kansas than it is to get an abortion in Oklahoma.

[00:07:17] So those are the people who are able to leave, right? So, another thing we've noticed is that a number of people cannot leave the state for various reasons. We have callers who are undocumented, so, if you've never been in the valley or in Texas or any of the border states in the United States and specifically bordering Mexico, up to a hundred miles north of the Mexico border there are border patrol checkpoints on every major highway or interstate going north from the US Mexico border. So they're not on the border of the US and Mexico, right? They're a hundred miles inland. So, if you're an undocumented person and you're trying to leave the valley, say to go to San Antonio, you cannot do that [00:08:00] because they ask about your citizenship status.

[00:08:02] And if you lie about that and you get caught, you can put yourself in risk of detainment or deportation. So yeah, if you are an undocumented person and you need abortion care, it is imperative that you figure out you're pregnant and then try to get abortion care before the six weeks. If you don't then traveling out of the state is really not an option for you.

[00:08:30] So yeah, that's one population, especially here in the valley and in the border region in Texas, there's a number of undocumented people. And a lot of the times they're left out of the conversation because you just don't think about these things. And if people don't know border patrol checkpoints exist, you don't think about what's happening.

[00:08:50] **Katie Breen:** Yeah. I mean, I do really think that gets left out of a lot of the conversations because so many of the conversations are taking place among people [00:09:00] who don't live in Texas, like me, who , I don't have familiarity with living in a border state and all that goes into that. And so, yeah, I think it definitely needs to be talked about more.

[00:09:12] So for your callers that are undocumented. If they don't find out well, let's just say, even if they find out before six weeks, it's not like it's a cakewalk to go get an abortion in Texas anyway. And actually, let's go through a couple scenarios. Let's say there is a caller they ARE documented. So we're not dealing with that additional obstacle. And they find out before six weeks that they're pregnant and they want an abortion. How possible is it for them to even get an appointment within the six week window? Like I imagine there's a lot of [00:10:00] demand and there's not many clinics in Texas and they're probably all far away from you.

[00:10:04] **Zaena Zamora:** Exactly. So we do have one clinic locally in the Rio Grande valley, but south of San Antonio, it is that one clinic in the McAllen, Texas. Right and Texas is huge, huge, like we don't measure the distance by miles, we measure by how long does it take to get to a place? Right. So for me, San Antonio is mentally three hours away, right?

[00:10:26] Yeah. So I don't, if you asked me how far is San Antonio in miles? I don't know.

[00:10:31] **Katie Breen:** , I honestly, even not being from Texas like, I don't, I don't operate in miles. I don't know how many miles away something is.

[00:10:39] **Zaena Zamora:** Right. So if you're a person who doesn't have any documentation barriers, getting an abortion in Texas is feasible.

[00:10:48] But again, Even before SB8, Texas had a number of restrictions. So you need to make your appointment like right away. You don't really have time to mull over the decision of [00:11:00] whether or not you want to have an abortion, which some people might want that time. Right. So you need to make your appointment right away.

[00:11:06] You have to go to mandatory ultrasounds. So you go in, you get your ultrasound. And what's interesting is you can't go in with like an ultrasound that you get from your OB GYN. And you find out you're pregnant over there and they do an ultrasound and they tell you. The ultrasound has to be performed by the same person who's providing the abortion.

[00:11:25] So it has to be done in the clinic. That cost can range anywhere from 50 to \$100, which is completely a hundred percent out of pocket because Texas has laws that restrict private and public insurances from covering any abortion care. So then you have to wait, you get your ultrasound, you have to go through mandatory counseling, then you have to wait 24 hours to actually get your abortion.

[00:11:50] So then you wait the 24 hours, you go back to a second appointment the next day, hopefully the next day. And again, it has to be the same provider. So the provider [00:12:00] who did your ultrasound has to perform the abortion. This is by the way, all of this is completely medically unnecessary.

[00:12:08] **Katie Breen:** Totally.

[00:12:09] **Zaena Zamora:** I don't think I've ever had a provider or an OB GYN do my ultrasound, it has always been like a tech, right?

[00:12:17] **Katie Breen:** Yeah. Like the doctors don't do ultrasound. Also if you were, let's say you were having a pregnancy that you took to term: A) your OB GYN is not going to be the one doing your ultrasound, B) you very much might not have the same person deliver your baby as you have seen prior in care. So there's literally no reason.

[00:12:42] **Zaena Zamora:** Yeah. And even OB GYNs, they don't perform ultrasounds usually before eight weeks. You go to them and tell them I might be pregnant. Then you have to wait. Right?

[00:12:53] So 24 hours, you get your abortion, same provider as the ultrasound. And depending on where you [00:13:00] get your abortion here in the valley it's really expensive. It's \$700. So that's \$700 plus a hundred dollars of ultrasounds. That's \$800 you're spending out of pocket .

[00:13:11] **Katie Breen:** Is that for an in-clinic abortion or like a vacuum aspiration, or is it for a medication abortion?

[00:13:19] **Zaena Zamora:** So whether you're taking the medication abortion, or you're doing the surgical procedure, it's the same price, \$800.

[00:13:27] And then you're able to get your abortion. But you have to jump through all those hoops to.

[00:13:32] **Katie Breen:** Yeah. And then for someone who, again, documentation is NOT an issue, and let's say, if they can't get an abortion before six weeks, either because they didn't find out or whatever, and they call you, they call Frontera fund, what happens then?

[00:13:50] **Zaena Zamora:** So usually most of the callers who call us already have appointments with other clinics out of state. If they don't have an [00:14:00] appointment yet, and they're kind of freaking out, and I think a lot of them are, from my understanding and from my experience, most of them are aware of what's happening in Texas.

[00:14:09] They're not going to be experts on the law and what it does, right, but for practicality's sake, they know they can't get an abortion in Texas.

[00:14:18] **Katie Breen:** Right.

[00:14:19] So we'll give him a list of clinics to call and we will tell them, set up an appointment with the clinic, call us back. And if you need help with paying for the appointment, if you need help with travel, we can help you with that. So they'll either call us back with their appointments, we get some basic information from them, like their name, what day is their appointment? Where is their appointment at, how much it's going to cost them.

[00:14:44] And then depending on their gestational age, we'll pledge a certain amount of money for the financial assistance. So this money is going straight to the clinic and when they get there, they'll have like, depending on what we pledge, like \$500, a thousand, off their bill.[00:15:00] And then a lot of our callers are needing travel assistance because traveling is very expensive. And we're not talking about booking flights months in advance. It's like, oh, I need a flight in a week. That costs more money when you're booking closer to a departure date. So we'll get their information like their birthday, their name, and then any emails we can send reservations to.

[00:15:26] And we go through the process. We're basically like travel agents. We go through the process of booking a flight. Booking a hotel, figuring out little logistical things like, do they have Lyft on their phone so we can get them rideshares when they get to their destination or we'll work with other funds in different states to make sure that they have the on the ground travel, especially if they're flying because they won't have a car with them.

[00:15:50] Oftentimes they're going alone. So they're traveling. And they're navigating all this by themselves. We've had a number of callers who've never flown before. [00:16:00] And I think that's another thing. People don't realize like a lot of people in the valley, we're a relatively poor area. And a lot of people don't leave the valley. They don't travel besides going to San Antonio or Houston. Like they don't leave the state. So a lot of them are traveling for the first time. So we'll give them a document that outlines like what to expect when you travel in an airport for the first time, what's the process like, , knowing to take off your shoes, like little things that if you have never traveled before you might be like, I can't take waterpast the security checkpoint? So telling them like, what can you take? What can you not take? This is what to expect with security. How do you check for your bag? Like all those little things.. And we'll put their flight, their travel, get them ride-shares, work with other funds to see if they need any other assistance while they're there.

[00:16:44] And kind of be on call when they're traveling too. Cause if something happens and they need help, then we're there to help them. So, and all of that's really expensive and it takes a lot of time to book travel for each caller. Like an intake call [00:17:00] can be like five to 10 minutes long, maybe 15 and then booking the travel is another, like 30 to 45 minutes, depending on a number of issues.

[00:17:12] And then we have to be aware of when they're traveling, because then we have to book their Lyfts and just kind of have it on our radar. So if something comes up then we are available to them to help.

[00:17:23] Yeah. Well, that's so awesome that you all do that.

[00:17:27] Yeah, and it's very expensive.

[00:17:28] It's so expensive!

[00:17:31] **Zaena Zamora:** It's so, so expensive. I think like, so we were doing this before SB8, too. Right. But abortion was, you can get an abortion in Texas up to, I think 20, 21 weeks prior to SB eight, we weren't sending a lot of people out of Texas prior to that. And I think all of 2020, I spent about a little bit more than \$4,000 on travel support.

[00:17:52] But since Senate bill 8, I want to say we've spend up to about \$13,000 from [00:18:00] September to now.

[00:18:01] **Katie Breen:** Yeah. Well, I do want to ask in a second about for people where documentation is an issue, so I'm just saying that so I don't forget, but I wanted to ask- so like since SB eight, are you seeing more callers? Cause people call abortion funds because they need help paying for abortions. And if there aren't so many obstacles in place, it's not as expensive. But now it is more expensive. So are you seeing a) more calls and then, b) are you seeing a shift, or what shift have you seen like in ballpark percentages of the people who you're having to fund to go out of state versus who can get their abortion in Texas?

[00:18:43] **Zaena Zamora:** So prior to SB8, we were primarily working with the clinic and McAllen, Whole Women's Health in McAllen, which is an independent clinic. And since SB eight, they've been very fortunate to have funding by another funder.

[00:18:56] So that funding organization is pretty much covering anybody who's able [00:19:00] to get an abortion in Texas.

[00:19:01] **Katie Breen:** So people might not even call you cause they might call Whole Women's Health first and then realize, "oh, okay, great. It's going to be paid for," right?

[00:19:08] **Zaena Zamora:** Right.

[00:19:08] **Katie Breen:** That makes sense.

[00:19:10] **Zaena Zamora:** So most of our callers, the callers that we do get are traveling out. Like, I think I've funded maybe three or maybe five callers at the most at Whole Women's Health recently, like in the past few months, but most of them are going out of state. We're getting less calls, but again, we're also not funding anybody at Whole Women's Health, so we're not getting those calls.

[00:19:32] So we're getting less calls generally, but we're spending more money per call. Every single one of them needs help either financially, with their appointment, or with the travel costs associated with traveling to where they need to go.

[00:19:47] **Katie Breen:** Right. Okay. So for people for whom documentation IS an issue, what can you do? If they can't travel and it's after six weeks.

[00:19:58] **Zaena Zamora:** So this has been [00:20:00] a very frustrating thing. So there, yes, we also, we do help people who are below the checkpoints or south of the checkpoints, but there's a number of people who are undocumented who WERE able to make it past the checkpoints and they also need help.

[00:20:14] So if they live north of the checkpoint, it's easier for them to travel because they're not going to have to travel through checkpoints and be asked about documentation status. So we have helped a number of callers in Texas who are north of the checkpoints, and they're able to travel. It's still not without risks.

[00:20:32] **Katie Breen:** But they're only able to drive. Like, it's not like they have a state issued ID, so they can't fly.

[00:20:40] **Zaena Zamora:** They can't, they can't fly, but they can drive. Or I think bus travel is not too bad for them. But again, it's not risk-free.

[00:20:49] **Katie Breen:** Right, because there could be ICE at some point.

[00:20:54] **Zaena Zamora:** Yeah or border patrol. If you've ever traveled through Texas, especially up to San Antonio, there is just [00:21:00] so many border patrol stops.

[00:21:01] **Katie Breen:** Well, I feel like I've heard of ICE agents like raiding Greyhound buses.

[00:21:05] **Zaena Zamora:** Yeah, exactly..

[00:21:06] **Katie Breen:** And this is probably, I should probably know the answer. I don't. But let's say you're driving. You're undocumented. You get pulled over by just like a regular police officer, not ICE. I imagine there's risk there too because you can't probably, at least not in Texas, you probably can't have a driver's license. In other states, like in California yeah, you can have a driver's license if you're undocumented, but yeah, in Texas. So yeah, if you get pulled over and you don't have a driver's license, that is a problem.

[00:21:40] **Zaena Zamora:** Yeah, exactly. So, but again, we have been able to help people who are undocumented, who are north of the checkpoints. The people who are south of the checkpoint, that's another issue. So if they're able to get an appointment at Whole Women's Health, or any clinic that they're close to then great. There they're covered. We'll help them pay [00:22:00] for that appointment or they'll get funding from the other organization that's funding Whole Women's Health.

[00:22:04] But if they're unable to get an appointment, there's really not much we can do for them. And if they ask about self-managed abortion, because the conversation does come up, and it's coming up more and more often now, we can give them information as far as like, here are some resources about this. We cannot tell you what to do. We're not doctors, and this is not legal advice. But if you're asking about this information here is where you can find it. And that information is easily available online in both English and Spanish.

[00:22:37] There's not much else we can do for them because we don't fund self-managed abortion. So yeah. So they're either forced into pregnancy, they take the risk and travel up north of the checkpoints, or they do a self-managed abortion.

[00:22:57] **Katie Breen:** Right. And so when you're referring [00:23:00] to self-managed abortion, are you referring to finding a way to get abortion pills online and have them mailed, or is it more than that, that you're referring to?

[00:23:12] **Zaena Zamora:** It's kind of like giving them information, like Plan C, right?

[00:23:15] **Katie Breen:** We interviewed Plan C Pills on this podcast.

[00:23:18] **Zaena Zamora:** So there you go. So just basically like an info share, right? So constitutionally protected, we can't get in trouble for First Amendment rights of info sharing. Right. But the information that we share is about taking pills that are specifically for inducing abortion.

[00:23:35] **Katie Breen:** Right. Just abortion pills.

[00:23:37] **Zaena Zamora:** Yeah, like misoprostol. So that's what we share.

[00:23:39] But as far as like, oh, where do you get the pills? And how do you take them? We don't, we cannot give that information out because we aren't doctors and we would get in trouble.

[00:23:49] **Katie Breen:** Yeah. But luckily there are places that do offer that information.

[00:23:53] **Zaena Zamora:** They do. And you can find it, but you have to look for it.

[00:23:58] **Katie Breen:** Yeah. [00:24:00] Okay. So the other thing I want to talk about is the courts. I know, based on I did interview with someone who did a research study with like what was going on during Texas pre SB8, but when the COVID emergency order banning abortion was going in and out and stuff. And so I realized like, oh, wow, there's a lot of chaos when regulations are changing. So I'm curious, what has been happening in the courts? And then how does that impact what happens on the ground in terms of like, "oh, this day it might be okay, but this day it might not."

[00:24:33] **Zaena Zamora:** So at least on the funding side of being in the abortion funding world and doing this work, it's a roller coaster of emotions. Like, come September 1st. We're all of us, we're just waiting for SCOTUS to intervene and they didn't, I don't even think they intervened that day.

[00:24:53] **Katie Breen:** Yeah, they declined to, I think they like declined to intervene, like at like 10:00 PM.

[00:24:59] **Zaena Zamora:** [00:25:00] And that was just, it's just utterly devastating, but also just kind of very poignantly letting us know this is where we stand on abortion. And it was very like, "We don't give a shit," right? Gonna

let it go. We're not going to intervene. And even though everybody knows this bill is not constitutional and they know it's causing a lot of harm, they just didn't intervene. And that speaks volumes to the court cases that are coming up specifically around abortion. Right. So that was an emotional rollercoaster, just waiting for them to intervene and realizing they were not going to do it.

[00:25:43] And of course people don't stop needing abortions like, just because it's not accessible in Texas doesn't mean that, oh, nobody needs an abortion anymore. Like it's still happening. People still need them. They're still getting them. They're just having to go through a [00:26:00] bunch of barriers to do so.

[00:26:01] So that happened in the courts. And then simultaneously we also have, so Frontera Fund was involved in a federal lawsuit against SB8 and a state lawsuit against SB8. So the federal lawsuit didn't go anywhere. And then the DOJ got involved and there's a lot of like legal things happening, but for people on the ground who need abortions, it has been inaccessible for a hundred plus days.

[00:26:31] So during this entire time, people have not been able to get abortions easily in Texas, if you're past six weeks you'd have to travel out of state, be forced into pregnancy or do a self-managed abortion. And then recently the court SCOTUS, the Supreme court, again, refused to intervene they could have done so. And again, for us, it's just speaking volumes to the [00:27:00] Mississippi case. Jackson case, I think it's called.

[00:27:02] **Katie Breen:** Dobbs v. Jackson

[00:27:04] **Zaena Zamora:** One of those, but the Mississippi abortion effectively killed Roe right? Roe v. Wade. So again, they refuse to intervene. They also, they didn't make a ruling on whether the department of justice could, so that one went back down to the fifth circuit and the ruling that they made kind of limited who can be sued to challenge SB8, but essentially again, it still leaves it to where the civil cause of action, which is the enforcement mechanism behind SB8 to still intact federally. Like they refuse to touch it and they let it stand. And I think Justice Sotomayor had like a very scathing dissent and opinion on the matter. I can't, I don't remember exactly what she said, but basically like you're undermining the courts and the constitution.

[00:27:58] **Katie Breen:** That is basically what she said.

[00:27:59] **Zaena Zamora:** And again, [00:28:00] for practical purposes, people still can get abortions in Texas. We did have one win on the state court. So judge Peoples in the state lawsuit that involved us and a number of other funds and providers. He laid out a couple of reasons why the law was unconstitutional according to the Texas state constitution. So we won that case, but again, for practical purposes, the enforcement mechanisms are still in place and Texas Right To Life appealed the decision. So now it's going to go onto another court district court, I think.

[00:28:40] But again, a lot of legal mumbo jumbo. The relief that we're looking for, we don't have it yet. And that's the issue, right? Like, yes, all these things are happening. All these gears are moving in the courts, but people can't get abortions and that's the big issue. [00:29:00] Yeah, it's a lot.

[00:29:05] **Katie Breen:** Yeah. How can we help? What is the best way that concerned people who care about this- outside of Texas, inside of Texas- can help to aid Texas people who would like abortions.

[00:29:18] **Zaena Zamora:** There's a number of ways people can help. One is to support the work that Frontera Fund does and the other Texas abortion funds do. Because we are the ones who every day are talking to Texans who need abortions.

[00:29:31] And we are the ones who are helping them get the care that they need. So.

[00:29:35] **Katie Breen:** And it takes money.

[00:29:37] **Zaena Zamora:** It takes a lot of money.

[00:29:38] **Katie Breen:** So people should donate because this is not cheap work.

[00:29:43] **Zaena Zamora:** And don't get me wrong. We were the recipients of a lot of rage giving, like a lot of people were upset that

[00:29:48] **Katie Breen:** I'm all for rage giving

[00:29:49] **Zaena Zamora:** And it was amazing. But at the same time, it just doesn't feel sustainable.

[00:29:56] **Katie Breen:** Right. Like, it doesn't work if like people are angry, you get an [00:30:00] influx of money, but then people sort of forget about it and then there's still people needing abortion. So yeah, I'm all about a rage give, but like keep up with the rage, or keep up with the rage giving, or just keep up the giving.

[00:30:13] **Zaena Zamora:** Even something as simple as like uplifting our funds on social media. So if you can't afford it, which is, we're still in a pandemic, people are losing their jobs or are not finding work or not wanting to work for a certain institutions that don't pay well and are awful so they might not have money to donate right now, which is completely understandable, but lift up the work that we do. Talk about abortion. Talk about why abortion is important to you. And even if you're not someone who can get an abortion or someone who will never need an abortion, support the people who are doing the work, support people around you, who might need an abortion one day, say the word abortion. It's not a dirty word.

[00:30:53] And stay away from dangerous narratives around abortion. , I saw a tweet about [00:31:00] somebody who wanted to create an underground network of aunties to help people like leave the state. And I'm like, that work is already being done by abortion funds stay away from those harmful narratives of like underground covert operations or comparing what's happening to in Texas to like The Handmaid's Tale or trying to make those false equivalencies because it's just harmful to what's actually happening in Texas.

[00:31:30] And like I said, people here are already doing the work. Besides Texas, because the Supreme court allowed this bill to stand, you're seeing copycat bills pop up in other states. So yes, help Texas, if you can, but pay attention to what's happening in your state legislatures. . Look at what your governors are doing. Look at what your state representatives are doing, [00:32:00] because these bills are popping up like all over the south and the Midwest. So, and if they let the Texas one stand, it's a very high likelihood that they're going to let any other copycat laws stand too. So get involved into your local state politics and fight as much as you can to get those types of copycat bills from not passing.

[00:32:23] I think a lot of people when... Cause abortion funds were sounding the alarm about this bill. Since the beginning, since it was filed, like this is bad, it's going to be really bad. We were talking to lawyers already and we knew that that little enforcement mechanism is what made the bill challenging to sue against in the courts. Because it's not the state punishing people. It is private

citizens doing lawsuits. But I think even still people just expected it to be challenged in the courts and to be overturned and lo, we're like a hundred [00:33:00] days in. And we're still living through it. Pay attention to what's happening in your local state legislatures, and yeah just pay attention to what's happening because it's, I'm expecting, I'm preparing and I'm expecting the worst, like I'm expecting Roe not to be upheld. And like the SCOTUS's refusal to intervene speaks volumes to how they're going to rule in the Dobbs case.

[00:33:28] **Katie Breen:** Yeah. Well, I would add in addition to... yeah, donate to Texas abortion funds, but donate to abortion funds everywhere. Like every state has their own abortion fund.. You could go to fundabortion.org or nnaaf.org - the national network of abortion funds- it redirects, they're the same organization

[00:33:49] **Zaena Zamora:** Donate to them. Volunteer. If you can. Stop those harmful narratives.

[00:33:55] **Katie Breen:** And even if you live in a state, like let's say, I live in Colorado, let's say you live in a [00:34:00] state like Colorado or California or Maryland and you're\ like, yeah, politically, it's probably not a risk that. , something crazy to the abortion is going to happen here, but there's still things you can do by being involved politically.

[00:34:13] So like in Colorado, in response to all of these restrictions, Colorado in some capacity, is making a move to basically codify in law somehow that Colorado is like a safe Haven sort of state for abortion. So that's something that, , you could talk to your representatives about, and then I was going to say one other thing...

[00:34:34] **Zaena Zamora:** oh, call your representatives, like your senators and tell them to pass the women's health protection act which would codify like access to abortion, tell them to pass the each act, which would help like limit those restrictions against abortion, like the Hyde amendment.

[00:34:51] Right. So there's a bunch of little things you can do. And yes, even if you live in a liberal state, that doesn't mean that anti-abortion movements aren't going to try to [00:35:00] like go in there and, and mess things up, , for sure.

[00:35:03] **Katie Breen:** Even in Colorado, like on the ballot in 2020 was the question. Should we outlaw abortion? Luckily it was beat very easily, but , there's other things too, like things that might seem smaller that might not occur

to you around like barriers around clinics. So that like protesters can't stand right in front of a clinic. And those are things that you can get involved in at both the city slash town level and state level. So like, it might, I feel like it's, I totally understand that. Yeah. It can be easy to think of abortion as an issue that's not like a local issue. That's more of like a federal issue or a state issue, obviously, but. It can be a local issue because you could have, , crisis pregnancy centers that are doing all kinds of wild stuff that you can work in your state legislator or in your town, council, or city [00:36:00] council to pass things that would make it harder for the anti-abortion movement to like, do the wild tricks or they're like abusive things like standing right in front of a clinic and yelling at people.

[00:36:14] **Zaena Zamora:** Exactly. So yes, even in very liberal states that are going to basically be what is the destination states for abortions. Right. But again, like. Thinking about what can happen if Roe V. Wade falls you're going to have, and I think the executive director of the yellow fund in Alabama said it best, like there already are abortion deserts. You're going to have an abortion wasteland. There's going to be nothing for these people. Now what's happening in Texas. Like what's happening in Texas. It's not happening in a vacuum. Right. All the Texans that are going to New Mexico or Kansas. We are preventing people in New Mexico and Kansas from getting the care that they need in a timely manner, because [00:37:00] like domino, it's like a whole new population of people that, that clinics may or may not be prepared for.

[00:37:08] And that's just Texas. Imagine 26 states that are most likely going to have abortion, completely inaccessible like illegal.

[00:37:18] **Katie Breen:** Right, like right now, it's like at least maybe the few people that both realize they're pregnant for six weeks and can get the abortion, at least that some people that are served, but that will be no longer in 26 states, at least 26 states. Like 26 states automatically and then probably more.

[00:37:36] **Zaena Zamora:** Imagine the number of people who are trying to get abortions now in those states, having to travel to your state, if it's a destination state, and then pushing out hundreds of people, thousands of people from getting the care that they need in your own state. Right. And it's just seems so ridiculous that people who live in New Mexico are taking care of people who live in Texas when it should be Texans should be able to take care of Texans. We [00:38:00] shouldn't have to travel to another state to get healthcare. It just it's utterly ridiculous. And it's just going to be very unsustainable for a lot of people and a lot of clinics, like, like I'm just, it's even though we're preparing for

like Texas, a lot of the funds in the south and the Midwest are already, since Trump got elected, we were, we've been preparing for this. Right. Cause abortion funds, like that's what we do. We navigate barriers. And we saw like, it wasn't a matter of if this happens, it's gonna be a matter of when this happens. And it's happening.

[00:38:43] And of course it's one thing to prepare for it. And it's another thing for it to actually happen. And the same thing with SB8, like we were preparing for it. We still had that glimmer of hope. Like maybe SCOTUS will intervene and it won't be so bad, but they didn't. And it did go [00:39:00] through and it was not, I thought I was emotionally prepared for it. I was not emotionally prepared for what was going to happen. It really like, it just, it hurt me really like deeply what was happening because, I'm a person who has reproductive capability. And I think about all the other people in my life who have reproductive capability and just everybody I know who has reproductive capability. And then just having those rights stripped away from you is just and thinking about it, not only in Texas, but that is just going to happen on a huge, much larger scale is very disheartening. So, and like I said, if we can prepare for it all we want, but facing the reality of it is much harsher.

[00:39:49] Yeah. Well, Sorry to be such a downer.

[00:39:55] **Katie Breen:** No, I mean that, this is the reality. It's a real downer.

[00:39:59] **Zaena Zamora:** This is [00:40:00] so weird to be talking about like, oh yeah, Roe v. Wade's probably going to fail. And it's 2021. Like how did we get here? So.

[00:40:15] **Katie Breen:** Well, I encourage everyone listening, of course, to do what we said in terms of donating, getting involved, sharing on social.

[00:40:22] **Zaena Zamora:** We are here doing the work. Like we just were the ones who are already getting patients to their appointments. And we've been doing the work for a while

[00:40:31] **Katie Breen:** Donate to existing networks that know what they're doing.

[00:40:34] **Zaena Zamora:** Exactly, exactly. Like it's, it's a lot of work. Little logistical things that you might not think of like, oh, what hotels is the best hotel to send them to?

[00:40:43] Which can we establish a relationship with the hotel to let them know, like, this is what we're doing. Can you help us? And, , there are some hotels that are like, yes, we totally on board with what you're doing. We can do. Send your patients, their colors here, we can give you discounts, like little things like that, right?

[00:40:59] Figuring [00:41:00] out like, when is the best time to send the flight over to a destination because you don't want them to get there too early, because then they'll kind of have to wait for a long time to get into their hotel. Or, , we don't want them to leave too early from their, from their destination because of.

[00:41:17] We have to get ride shares that early. And sometimes it's really hard to get a lift at six in the morning. Like things that any other person who's not doing this work wouldn't think of. Right?

[00:41:30] **Katie Breen:** Yeah. Well, Zaena, thank you so much for doing this work and for being here today, to talk about all this, explain it and advocate. I'm really, really appreciative of the work you're doing for people in Texas,

[00:41:46] **Zaena Zamora:** Katie. And thank you for talking about it and saying the word abortion.

[00:41:50] **Katie Breen:** Oh, I say the word abortion every day.

[00:41:52] **Zaena Zamora:** Abortion abortion abortion

[00:41:54] **Katie Breen:** I've started really saying it on LinkedIn a lot. And I love that for me.

[00:41:58] **Zaena Zamora:** Yeah. [00:42:00] I was talking to a friend of mine about what the work I do.

[00:42:03] And I was telling him, like, I don't really tell people what I do sometimes, because I don't want to deal with the, whatever might come up. And he just so happens to be gay. He was like, oh my God. It's like, you're coming

out to people. And I was like, kind of, yeah, not really, but I can see the parallel of like being afraid of people's reactions.

[00:42:26] Right. And telling, yeah, I totally get that, but I've come to a point where I'm like, fuck it. This is what I do. I fund abortions, come at me bro!

[00:42:39] Say what you want to say to me. I've heard it all. So I'm for it. And I've had it up to here with all of those people who are anti-abortion. So.

[00:42:52] **Katie Breen:** Definitely. Well, thank you so much, Zaena.

[00:42:55] **Zaena Zamora:** Thank you, Katie.

[00:42:57] Thank you for listening to another [00:43:00] episode of the Femtastic Podcast. As usual, there will be links in the show notes to the Frontera Fund that you can donate to, other abortion funds that you can donate to. And I hope you'll do that.

[00:43:13] I hope you will vote in your local and state and the federal elections and. It's a tough world out there. So somebodygotta advocate for abortion and don't think that it's up to someone else to do. If you've listened to this whole episode, it's definitely in your power to also advocate for abortion.

[00:43:33] So please do that. Okay. Bye.