

## Viewpoint: How US abortion pill case could upend FDA approval of vaccines and drugs

The Supreme Court faces a decision that lays bare the threat to facts, evidence and the health of America's patients. The case, *Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine v. F.D.A.* — in which anti-abortion organizations and doctors who have never prescribed the pill mifepristone argue, absurdly, that 23 years ago the F.D.A. did not follow proper protocol in approving it as part of a two-drug regimen for abortion — is one of the most brazen attacks yet against reproductive health.

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In seeking to restrict access to abortion across the United States, the plaintiffs in this case have, intentionally or not, seriously jeopardized our nation's 85-year-old drug regulatory system. We must be clear-eyed; upholding any parts of the district court's dangerous ruling would in all likelihood almost immediately prompt challenges to other longstanding safe and effective F.D.A.-approved drugs that doctors and patients rely on every day.

After three years of politicization fueled by disinformation, this would surely include challenges to many vaccines, including those that reduce the risks of serious illness from Covid-19. We should expect lawsuits against common types of safe and highly effective hormonal birth control, including emergency contraception. Also at risk: drugs used to treat cancer and arthritis that can incidentally affect unexpected pregnancies, drugs to prevent or treat H.I.V., and medications aimed at providing gender-affirming care.

[\*\*This is an excerpt. Read the original post here\*\*](#)