

STATE-LEVEL ABORTION BANS: TAKE ACTION

When it rains, it pours. In 2018, an unprecedented amount of state-level abortion bans have been introduced in state capitols across the country. Ranging from “fetal heartbeat bills” (which ban abortions at around 6-weeks) to arbitrary abortion bans (11 weeks, 15 weeks, 20 weeks--it’s a race to the bottom!), these abortion laws are dangerous and unconstitutional. These despicable state-level bans are part of a wider conservative strategy to create legal challenges to these dangerous bills and unravel the protections set by *Roe V. Wade*.

We see through their deceptive plan to make safe, legal, and accessible abortion a thing of the past.

Read below to learn more about these state-level bans, and take action!

IOWA

In Iowa, conservative lawmakers have geared up to pass the most restrictive abortion law in the country. **Senate File 359** a “fetal heartbeat bill,” amends a bill already passed in the Senate to now add the prohibition ban abortion at the first detection of a fetal heartbeat; this can be as early as six weeks. A spokeswoman for Planned Parenthood of the Heartland, Iowa’s largest abortion provider, said that the bill would effectively outlaw abortion in Iowa, as more than 99 percent of the abortions her agency performed last fiscal year were done after six weeks of gestation.

STATUS

PASSED

On May 4, 2018, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds signed SF 359 into law making it the most restrictive abortion legislation in the country.

IDAHO

A dangerous abortion bill is on its way to the Governor’s desk, despite the fact that even some conservative lawmakers are against this bill. **SB 1243** would mandate that the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare provide individuals seeking abortions with information about reversing medication-induced abortion. This bill is not only based on shoddy, unscientific evidence, it raises serious privacy concerns.

STATUS

PASSED

Senate Bill 1243 was signed into law by Governor Butch Otter on March 20, 2018 and goes into effect on July 1, 2018.

KENTUCKY

In March, the Kentucky House of Representatives passed **H.B.454** a bill to ban abortion at 11 weeks. This bill is an unconstitutional and dangerous attempt to further restrict abortion access, especially in a state that has only one abortion provider. As indicated by Kentucky’s American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) branch, similar bans in the states of Texas, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Alabama have all been blocked in court.

STATUS

H.B. 454 was signed into law on April 10, 2018, the ACLU, however filed a lawsuit on behalf of abortion providers the next day seeking to stop enforcement of the law while the case proceeds. On April 13, the state agreed to temporarily delay enforcement of the law until the preliminary injunction hearing which is scheduled for June 5, 2018.

WEST VIRGINIA

In West Virginia, **Senate Joint Resolution 12 and House Bill 4012** represent a larger plan to eliminate safe, legal, and accessible abortion. SJ 12, the “No Constitutional Right to Abortion Amendment,” aims to amend the West Virginia Constitution to include, “Nothing in this Constitution secures or protects a right to abortion or requires the funding of abortion.” This is not only an intentional and direct contradiction to the right to legal abortion determined by the U.S. Supreme Court ruling on *Roe v. Wade*, it will further limit abortion access in a state with only one abortion clinic. S.J. 12 has already passed and will be on the ballot as a Constitutional Amendment in November.

HB 4012 seeks to cut off federal and state tax dollars from funding abortions, this includes abortions funded through Medicaid. This bill will have a devastating impact on low-income women and families in West Virginia. According to *The Charleston Gazette-Mail*, in 2017, about 1,500 publicly funded abortions were conducted in West Virginia. If passed, this bill will leave a huge gap in necessary reproductive healthcare services.

STATUS

HB 4012 failed to pass SJR 12, however, will appear on the ballot in November 2018.

Check out **Morgantown NOW** to learn **how to stop the Constitutional Amendment to Ban Abortion in November.**

SOUTH CAROLINA

In South Carolina, anti-choice legislators are pulling out all of the stops to make sure that women lose all access to abortion. **Senate Bill 217** is an egregious bill that looks to amend ‘personhood’ as beginning at the moment of fertilization. This bill, obviously unconstitutional and directly at odds with *Roe v. Wade*, would give full constitutional rights to fertilized eggs, embryos, and fetuses, and would ban abortion, birth control pills, IUDs, and emergency contraception.

STATUS

SB 217 currently resides in the Senate waiting for a vote. Call your South Carolina State Senator and urge them to stand with women. Find your state legislator [here!](#)

MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi is steps away from passing another restrictive abortion ban. The Mississippi House of Representatives passed **H.B. 1510**, the Gestational Age Act, barring abortion after 15 weeks. The bill also included specific reporting requirements for physicians requiring them to submit a report to the health department with information on the procedure and the patient.

STATUS

The bill was signed into law by Gov. Phil Bryant on March 19, however that same day the Center for Reproductive Rights filed a lawsuit challenging the law. A federal judge temporarily blocked the law on March 20, 2018.

OHIO

In March 2018, **House Bill 565** was introduced to the Ohio House. Sponsored by state Reps. Ron Hood and Nino Vitale, H.B. 565 bans abortion at all stages, even in cases of rape or incest. The 284-page bill calls for the “abolition of abortion in the state of Ohio and the protection of unborn humans”. Though unconstitutional and at direct odds with *Roe v. Wade*, the bill has already been co-signed by 18 other Republican members of the House.

STATUS

H.B. 565 has been introduced into the House, but no further action has been taken.

INDIANA

Much like South Carolina, Indiana has decided to attack a woman's right to abortion and privacy from multiple angles. The most pressing piece of legislation is **Senate Bill 203**. SB 203, sponsored by state Sen. Aaron Freeman (R-Indianapolis), states that crimes of murder, voluntary manslaughter, involuntary manslaughter, and feticide, may be committed against a fetus in any stage of development and are punishable as such.

STATUS

PASSED

S.B. 203 passed in the Senate February 1, 2018 and in the House February 27, 2018. It was signed by Governor Eric Holcomb on March 25.

LOUISIANA

The notorious anti-choice state is set to pass one of the nation's most restrictive abortion bans in the country: **Senate Bill 181**. S.B. 181 is a bill that bans abortion after 15 weeks. Stricter than the 15-week abortion ban in Mississippi, S.B. 181 also includes criminal charges for the physician who performs the abortion with up to a \$100,000 fine.

S.B. 181 is one of three restrictive abortion bills currently being heard in Louisiana. Also advancing to the House is **Senate Bill 534**, which criminalizes "coercive" abortion. S.B. 534 is a scare-tactic being used to frighten doctors and physicians who perform abortion. The bill carries up to five years in prison and a fine of \$5,000. The third bill, **Senate Bill 325**, would allow the state to suspend an outpatient abortion clinic's license if forms required by the "Woman's Right to Know Law" are falsified, destroyed, or pre-filled. S.B. 325 is an example of a TRAP Law. TRAP laws are arbitrary restrictions placed on clinics that perform abortions making it difficult for them to stay open.

STATUS

All three bills, S.B. 181, S.B. 534, and S.B. 325 are currently awaiting consideration in the House after making out of committee. Find your Louisiana state Senator here and tell them to Vote, "NO" to these abortion bans!