

News From The States

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS TODAY

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By Elisha Brown



*Laws passed in at least 14 states require abortion providers to present information saying medication abortions can be “reversed,” a method that’s not rooted in science.
(Adobe Stock Photos)*

Anti-abortion groups have pressured lawmakers in at least [14 states](#) to require providers to give patients information about an abortion pill “reversal” treatment — an unproven, unscientific method that [major medical organizations](#) have condemned, [Stateline](#) reports.

Heartbeat International, an umbrella network of crisis pregnancy centers that are often criticized by abortion rights organizations for only counseling pregnant patients against termination, promotes the reversal procedure through its Abortion Pill Rescue Network.

“Autonomy dictates that the patient ultimately decides the intended outcome of her pregnancy even if she’s already taken an abortion drug,” said Christa Brown, a registered nurse and Heartbeat International’s senior director of medical impact.

[Dr. George Delgado](#), a **California** family medicine and palliative care physician, is credited with popularizing the treatment. Delgado and other proponents claim that a high dose of progesterone taken within 72 hours of taking mifepristone, one of two abortion drugs, can reverse the effects of a medication abortion. Delgado is also one of the plaintiffs in the case challenging the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's approval of abortion pills.

Democratic-controlled **Colorado** became the first state to ban the method this year. A Catholic clinic immediately sued the state over the law, which a federal judge blocked in October, [Colorado Newsline](#) reports.

In 2019, a test of Delgado’s method had to be stopped after some participants hemorrhaged. Dr. Mitchell Creinin, the author behind that [study](#), told Stateline that abortion reversal laws legitimize the potentially harmful treatment.

“People do change their mind [about abortion], but it’s incredibly rare. If they push this lie long enough and hard enough, people will think it’s the truth,” said Creinin, an OB-GYN and professor at University of California, Davis.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta, a Democrat, recently [sued](#) Heartbeat International and **RealOptions**, accusing the groups of violating fair business practices laws by promoting abortion pill reversal. The American Medical Association also [sued North Dakota](#) over a reversal statute, but the group [dropped](#) the case this fall.

Bonta [said](#) the crisis pregnancy centers “took advantage of pregnant patients at a deeply vulnerable time in their lives, using false and misleading claims to lure them in and mislead them about a potentially risky procedure.”

THE BEAT *States Newsroom coverage*

Florida abortion rights campaign shifts into high gear



Protesters outside the Florida Supreme Court in June 2022 on the day Roe v. Wade fell. Reproductive rights advocates behind a ballot initiative are canvassing in Orlando and Tampa, among other cities. (Danielle J. Brown/Florida Phoenix file photo)

The group campaigning to put an abortion amendment on the ballot next year is steadily collecting signatures for its petition drive. Floridians Protecting Freedom is focused on **10 key congressional districts** to gather support across the state, [Florida Phoenix](#) reports. The specific districts include cities such as **Gainesville, Orlando, Tallahassee** and **Tampa**. Ballot language submitted to the state aims to safeguard abortion access through fetal viability or later in pregnancy to preserve a patient’s health or life.

Canvassers must collect roughly 892,000 signatures by Feb. 1 to qualify for the November 2024 ballot, among other requirements. **State data shows the group has more than 492,000 signatures. That number is expected to be updated today, Dec. 1,** per the Phoenix.

“We’re feeling really good about where we are,” said Amy Weintraub, reproductive rights director of **Progress Florida**, an organization assisting the petition drive. Weintraub said they’re “urging Floridians from Key West to Pensacola” to support the campaign, but she’s confident the coalition will reach its deadline.

Meanwhile, current abortion law could still be changed by the **Florida Supreme Court**. Nearly four months ago, the justices heard arguments in a case challenging a **15-week ban** based on state constitutional privacy rights. The court still hasn’t issued a ruling. **Florida’s top court also has the power to reject the abortion rights measure altogether.** Republican Attorney General Ashley Moody and major anti-abortion groups are urging the court to boot the effort, arguing that the initiative contains vague language.

New Hampshire GOP-led council rejects abortion providers' family planning contracts

For the fifth time in three years, the state's Republican-controlled Executive Council, a gubernatorial advisory council, rejected contracts Wednesday with three reproductive health clinics because they provide abortions, [New Hampshire Bulletin](#) reports. **Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, Equality Health Center, and Loversing Health Center provide the majority of the state's low-cost, crucial health services**, such as cancer screenings, STD treatment and contraception. New Hampshire's Department of Health and Human Services estimated the three clinics have served nearly 5,400 low-income people in recent years.

Audits show that the providers do not use state or federal money for abortion care, but that evidence has not swayed Republicans. Kayla Montgomery, vice president of public affairs for Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, said the decision was disheartening and dangerous. "These facilities are lifelines for our communities, offering essential preventive care that impacts the health and well-being of thousands of Granite Staters," Montgomery said. [STD rates are rising](#) in New Hampshire, and health officials said there are **outbreaks of gonorrhea and syphilis**. Leaders of the other two clinics also expressed frustration at the council's consistent rejections.

Indiana preps new maternal and child health policies

House lawmakers in Indiana held a Medicaid Advisory Committee on Wednesday, where they discussed efforts to improve health outcomes for mothers and newborns. The Hoosier Families First Fund will distribute **\$4.5 million total to reproductive health organizations** in 36 counties, [Indiana Capital Chronicle](#) reports. The funds will be used to encourage [vitamin K shots for newborns](#) to protect them from dangerous bleeding problems, increase doula services and support mobile health clinics and home visit programs.

The state may also launch a doula Medicaid reimbursement program and provide Medicaid coverage for the cost of home nurses under programs like [My Healthy Baby](#) to decrease infant and maternal mortality rates. In 2019, 92 Hoosiers died within a year of childbirth, and about a third of the women died from overdose. The state has a [Pregnancy Promise Program](#) that helps mothers struggling with substance and opioid use disorders. Nearly 700 women take part in the service, the highest number of enrollees nationwide.

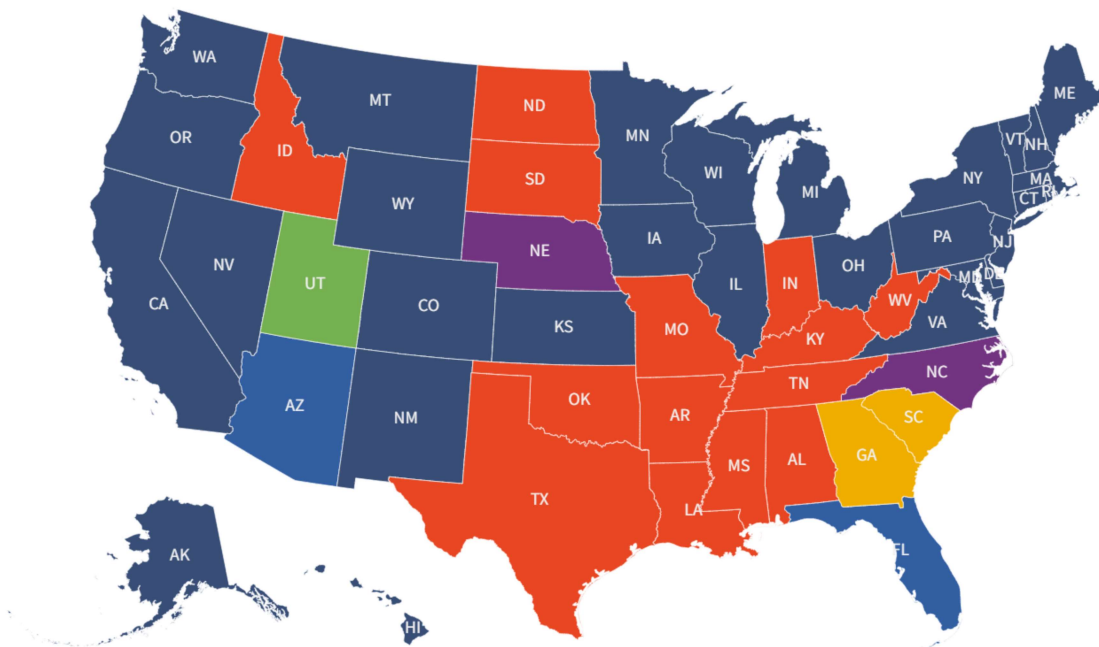
THE PULL *Commentary from Missouri*

"Whether at the state or federal level, the lasting and controlling answers should be determined in the voting booths. The abortion issue stands to be one of the biggest tests of how well our democracy works." — **Janice Ellis**, contributor, [Missouri Independent](#)

THE PULSE *Reproductive rights news across the country*

- A California man was sentenced to 18 years in prison for threatening Planned Parenthood staff the same day the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*. ([Santa Barbara Independent](#))
- Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown, a Democrat, is centering abortion rights in his re-election campaign. ([CBS News](#))
- Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose, who is vying for Sen. Sherrod Brown's Senate seat, said he consulted with three major anti-abortion groups when drafting ballot language for Issue 1, the reproductive rights amendment voters approved last month. ([Cleveland.com](#))
- A majority of Minnesota voters would support constitutional protections for abortion and equal rights, a new poll shows. ([MinnPost](#))

STATE BY STATE *Abortion access in the U.S.*



Open this interactive map in your browser

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