

News From The States

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS TODAY

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By [Elisha Brown](#)



*Republican Rep. Julianne Young unveiled legislation this week that would replace the term “fetus” with “preborn children” in abortion-related laws. Abortion rights advocates fear the bill could forge a legal path for fetal personhood.
(Otto Kitsinger for Idaho Capital Sun)*

The Idaho House State Affairs Committee met Tuesday for the first time this legislative session by introducing a bill that would rewrite abortion-related laws by replacing any references to the word “fetus” with “preborn children.”

Republican Rep. Julianne Young told [Idaho Capital Sun](#) that her bill wouldn’t alter policy or give fetuses legal personhood.

“But it does replace a medicalized term with a term that we all understand to be a person, which is the position of the state of Idaho when it comes to our preborn children,” Young told the committee this week. The [bill](#) will get a full hearing.

Abortion rights advocates fear the bill could affect reproductive health care and create a pathway to restrict IVF, birth control and emergency contraception.

“For the health and safety of all people in our state, we cannot afford to waste time changing medical language to politically and emotionally charged terminology,” state Planned Parenthood director Mistie DelliCarpini-Tolman said in a news release.

THE BEAT *States Newsroom coverage*

Midwest Planned Parenthood reaches tentative union contract



Planned Parenthood North Central States workers picket outside a clinic in Minneapolis as part of a protest over what union leaders say are unfair labor practices. (Photo courtesy of SEIU Healthcare Minnesota and Iowa)

More than 430 Planned Parenthood workers across five Midwestern states — Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska and the Dakotas — voted to unionize 18 months ago. SEIU Healthcare Minnesota & Iowa announced a tentative labor contract with Planned Parenthood North Central States management this week, [Minnesota Reformer](#) reports. **The deal lowers health insurance costs and raises wages nearly 12% over three years, with lowest-paid staff getting a 17% pay increase the first year.**

Some workers told the Reformer they were unhappy with the arrangement and hoped it would contain higher raises that factored in union fees. **Planned Parenthood's regional affiliate has been embroiled in allegations of unfair labor practices and union-busting.** Last year, the organization fired a [licensed practical nurse](#) and disciplined the bargaining team based on misconduct claims.

Ohio high court candidate linked to anti-abortion group



*The Gavel outside the Ohio State Supreme Court.
(Graham Stokes/Ohio Capital Journal)*

An Ohio Supreme Court candidate who has publicly aligned with an anti-abortion group criticized a Wisconsin judge's anti-gerrymandering comments made on the campaign trail.

Republican Megan Shanahan wrote a [column](#) last year questioning why candidate Janet Protasiewicz, who was elected to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, shared her opinions about redistricting and partisan gerrymandering while running for her seat. Protasiewicz also ran on protecting abortion access in her state.

Shanahan is running against Democratic incumbent Ohio Supreme Court Justice Michael Donnelly. If elected, Shanahan could review abortion cases even though reproductive rights are protected by the Ohio Constitution, according to [Ohio Capital Journal](#).

Shanahan tweeted in 2016 that she was “proud” to be [endorsed](#) by Cincinnati Right to Life and attend one of its events. That group actively campaigned against the state’s

reproductive rights ballot measure, which most voters approved in November.

A spokesperson for Shanahan said the 2002 U.S. Supreme Court decision [Republican Party of Minnesota v. White](#) overturned canon that barred judicial candidates from publicly expressing their opinions on controversial issues.

Wisconsin's [Protasiewicz faced heat](#) from the state GOP for advocating for reproductive rights and against gerrymandering as a candidate. [Republicans called for her impeachment](#), but a disciplinary commission rejected the complaints, according to [Wisconsin Examiner](#). Protasiewicz also refused to recuse herself from a gerrymandering lawsuit, the [Examiner](#) reported.

Utah bill would allow pregnant people to drive in the HOV lanes

A Utah Republican filed a bill this week that would allow pregnant people to drive in the HOV lanes on expressways, [Utah News Dispatch](#) reports. “It’s woman friendly and mama friendly,” said Sen. Mike Kennedy, the measure’s sponsor. **Drivers would need to have a doctor’s note stating that they’re pregnant, but traffic tickets would be dismissed under the law.**

“The woman who’s hustling off to a doctor’s appointment or maybe even hustling off to the hospital to deliver her baby would have the opportunity to have the carpool lane usage without going through the formal registration process,” Kennedy said. **A similar bill passed in the Utah House last year, but a state Senate committee rejected it.**

In 2022, a pregnant [Texas woman](#) made national headlines when she challenged a ticket for driving alone in the HOV lane, arguing that state law classifies fetuses as people.

THE PULL *Commentary from Ohio*

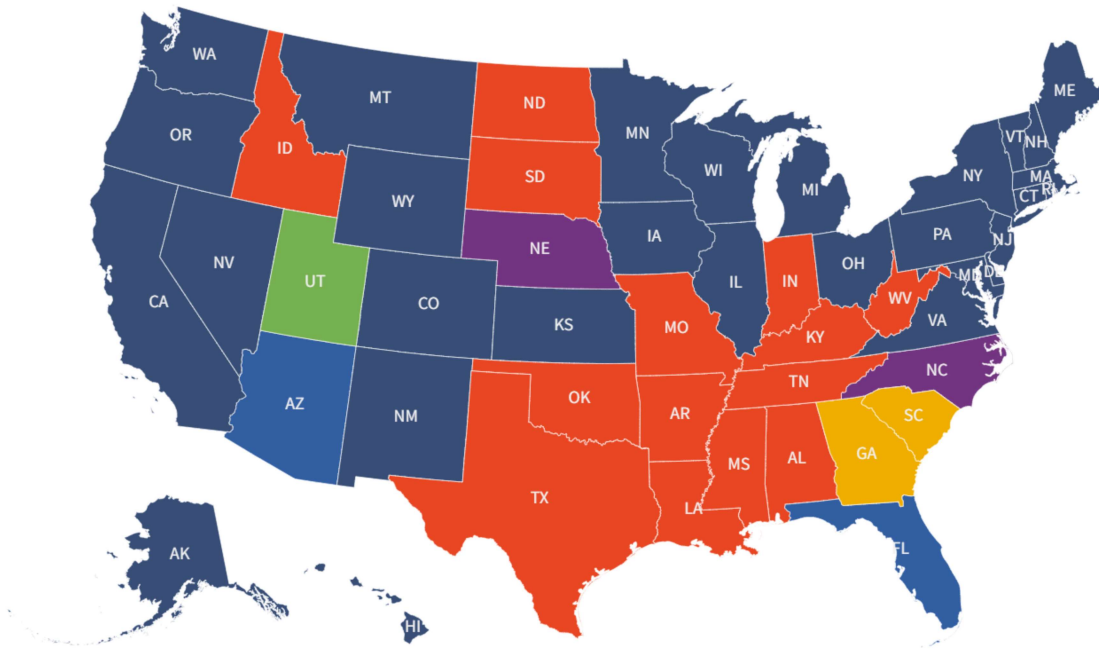
“A band of small-minded, craven legislators in the Ohio House and Senate have pushed through an anti-trans law that’s a direct attack on the freedom of all Ohioans to work with their doctors to get the care they and their families need. As they tried with abortion, these GOP legislators — and yes, they’re all Republicans — want to make political hay while the propaganda spotlight shines, taking advantage of ignorance and unease to rile up voters while inserting themselves in the private lives of Ohio citizens.” — **Rick Neal**, Columbus stay-at-home dad and former Democratic congressional candidate, [Ohio Capital Journal](#)

THE PULSE *Reproductive rights news across the country*

- Two powerful Republican lawmakers in Florida criticized legislation that would ban most abortions. ([Florida Phoenix](#))

- A Kentucky Republican filed a bill that would remove certificate of need requirements for freestanding birth centers, psychiatric hospitals and other specialized health care facilities. ([Kentucky Lantern](#))
- New Jersey Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy urged legislators to pass a bill that would end abortion copays. ([New Jersey Monitor](#))
- South Carolina Republican senators revised a bill that would have required parental consent of prescriptions for children under 18. ([Charleston Post & Courier](#))
- The Federal Trade Commission barred a company from selling tracking data on people's medical visits, part of the Biden administration's pledge to shield patient privacy after the end of Roe v. Wade. ([Politico](#))

STATE BY STATE Abortion access in the U.S.



Open this interactive map in your browser

Track state-level developments on reproductive rights anytime at [News From The States](#). Send tips and thoughts to ebrown@statesnewsroom.com, and follow her on Twitter [@elishacbrown](#).

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