

News From The States

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS TODAY

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By [Kelcie Moseley-Morris](#) and [Elisha Brown](#)



*Amanda D'Angelo and husband James honeymooned in Hawaii in 2021. The rainbow is widely regarded as a symbol of having a living child after losing one during pregnancy.
(Courtesy Amanda D'Angelo)*

Editor's note: This is the second installment of an occasional States Newsroom series called "When and where: Abortion access in America," profiling individuals who have needed abortion care in the U.S. before and after Dobbs. The first story can be found [here](#).

[Amanda D'Angelo](#) only had a few weeks to get used to the idea that she was going to be a twin mom, before her eight-week scan revealed one had died.

WHEN AND WHERE?

Abortion access in America

It's a relatively common occurrence early on in twin pregnancies, and while it was upsetting, she took comfort in still being pregnant. She went on her honeymoon with her husband to Hawaii in July 2021, and the newlyweds smiled

for a photo on the beach with a double rainbow behind them — a rainbow being the widely regarded symbol of having a living child after losing one during pregnancy.

She didn't know just how symbolic that rainbow would become until a few weeks later.

D'Angelo went to a clinic in Manchester, New Hampshire, for a routine 12-week scan on her lunch break, without her husband, James, who had to work. But when the ultrasound technician began looking in detail, she told D'Angelo, "I don't like the look of the head."

The technician went to talk to the doctor, and D'Angelo was left alone in silence for about 20 minutes, staring up at an orange-brown overhead light, repeating to herself, "There's no way two bad things can happen."

The doctor's look said it all. "I wish I was meeting you on better terms," she recalled him saying. She started to cry. "I was beside myself."

The connection of [mental health and abortion](#) is a talking point used by anti-abortion and abortion rights advocates alike, for different reasons. Research shows that most women do not experience significant emotional harm after an abortion and do not regret the decision, and those denied an abortion are more likely to have anxiety, low self-esteem, and fewer aspirational goals for the future.

For mothers whose pregnancies have been diagnosed with fetal anomalies, there is a [high risk](#) of traumatic stress and depression at the time of the diagnosis and over time.

Read more at [News from the States](#).

THE BEAT *States Newsroom coverage*

Missouri's Republican-led abortion initiative ends as GOP reject exceptions to ban



*Missourians for Constitutional Freedom has received millions of dollars in recent weeks for its campaign to end the state abortion ban through a proposed amendment.
(Anna Sporre/Missouri Independent)*

Jamie Corley, a longtime Republican congressional staffer, is **withdrawing a petition that would have asked Missouri voters to legalize first trimester abortions** and add rape and incest exceptions to the state's near-total ban. "We formed this organization because we want to restore access to abortion, and having two initiatives on the ballot is a sure-fire way to make sure that doesn't happen," Corley told [Missouri Independent](#). "We don't want to be a spoiler."

Corley's group started signature-gathering last fall but had **only raised about \$61,000** as of mid-January, according to the Independent. **Money has instead flowed to Missourians for Constitutional Freedom**, a PAC behind the effort to restore abortion access up to fetal viability or later to preserve the patient's health or life. The group has raised more than **\$4.4 million in the past three weeks**. Out-of-state nonprofits Sixteen Thirty Fund and Fairness Project have contributed \$1.5 million total.

The remaining campaign, backed by the state's major abortion rights groups, is in full swing. **Sponsors hosted five events across the state Tuesday night**. More than 500 people were expected at the Kansas City event, according to Emily Wales, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood Great Plains. Jeanne Rivers brought her 6-year-old son to the forum. "I want him to learn that women have a voice and that he can be part of that voice and learn and be an advocate and defender in his future for us," Rivers said.



*Republican Sen. Mary Elizabeth Coleman introduced legislation that would make Planned Parenthood ineligible to receive reimbursements from Missouri's Medicaid program.
(Annelise Hanshaw/Missouri Independent)*

Meanwhile in the legislature, **GOP Sen. Mary Elizabeth Coleman's attempt to bar Planned Parenthood from receiving state Medicaid funds failed** Wednesday, the [Independent](#) reported. The reproductive health organization doesn't provide abortions in the state but its clinics still offer cancer screening, STI testing and birth control. Several Republican senators were worried the bill would interfere with federal funding and taxes.

Democratic Sen. Tracy McCreery introduced two amendments to Coleman's bill that would add rape and incest exemptions to the state's abortion ban, which only allows pregnancy terminations for medical emergencies. McCreery asked her colleagues to have "an ounce of compassion" for sexual abuse victims, but her proposals were rejected.

According to the Independent, **Sen. Mike Moon, a Republican who wants to prosecute abortion patients, spent 12 minutes naming prominent people conceived through rape and incest** "after suggesting authorities should shoot or castrate rapists." And Republican Sen. Sandy Crawford said rape is horrible but doesn't justify an abortion. "God is perfect," she said. "God does not make mistakes. And for some reason he allows that to happen. Bad things happen."

Gender sparks debate about abortion rights in New Jersey race for U.S. Senate seat



*First Lady Tammy Murphy and U.S. Rep. Andy Kim are tussling over abortion in their bid to win the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate in June.
(Courtesy of Erin Scott and Rich Hundley III/Governor's Office)*

Democratic Rep. Andy Kim and New Jersey first lady Tammy Murphy are frontrunners in the race to replace U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez, who is facing federal corruption charges. Both Democrats are running on similar platforms, but last weekend **Murphy suggested her gender makes her the better candidate**, [New Jersey Monitor](#) reported.

"I don't think a man is going to put a priority on abortion and getting, codifying that at the federal level," Murphy said. "That's going to take a female who is worried about the next shoe dropping, and that's me." Murphy expanded on her comments Wednesday, saying her lived experience gives her a unique perspective on the issue: "As a female, as the mother of a daughter, I just feel that I've had children myself, and I have experienced birth complications. I understand this."

Kim told the Monitor that Murphy's initial comments were "frustrating," given male Democrats are also trying to protect abortion rights. "Is she criticizing Joe Biden? Is she criticizing Chuck Schumer? Is she criticizing her husband or saying that her husband's not up to the task?" he said. Gov. Phil Murphy, Tammy Murphy's husband, signed legislation protecting the right to an abortion in New Jersey [two years ago](#), six months before the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade. "That just shows the fallacy of that argument," Kim said.

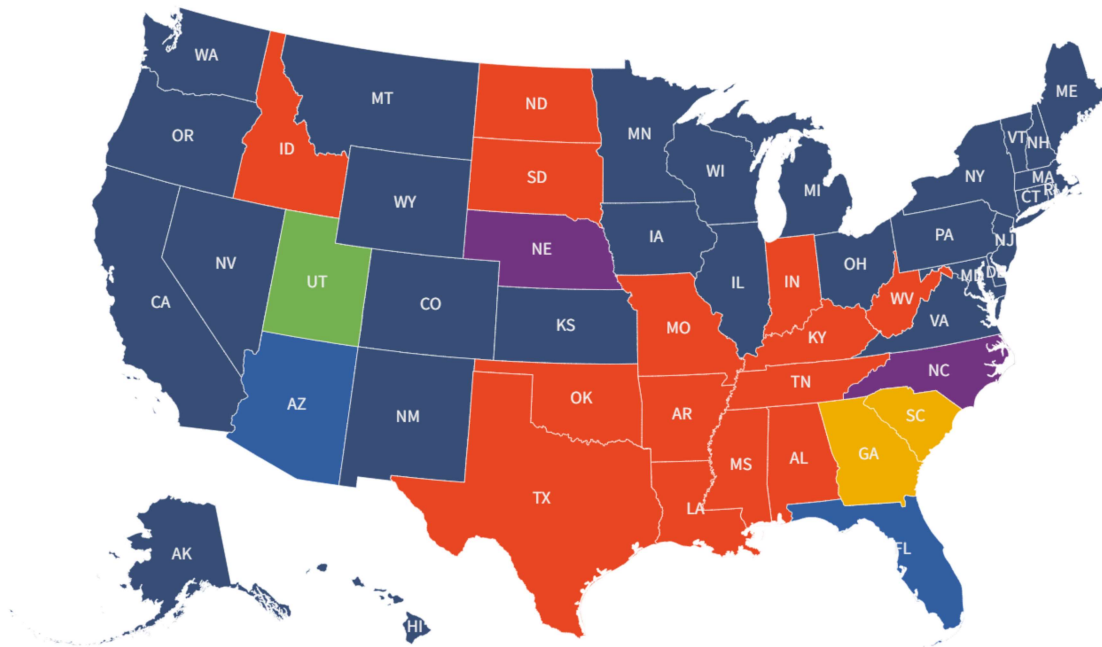
THE PULL *Commentary from Arizona*

“Campaigns always depend on a candidate’s ability to attract a diverse coalition of supporters, but this year’s races for the White House, Congress and many state and local offices will be largely decided by issues that matter most to women. And, yes, a woman’s right to choose what she does with her own body will be at or near the top of the political agenda this year.” — **James E. Garcia**, contributor, [Arizona Mirror](#)

THE PULSE *Reproductive rights news across the country*

- South Dakota Republican House lawmakers advanced a resolution against a proposed abortion rights amendment. ([South Dakota Searchlight](#))
- Former employees of the Virginia Department of Corrections who filed a class-action lawsuit against the agency allege that they were strip-searched and fired for using menstrual products. ([Virginia Mercury](#))
- Plaintiffs suing Wyoming officials over the state’s abortion laws want to cite a study that shows the negative effect bans have on OB-GYNs. ([WyoFile](#))
- Kentucky House lawmakers moved a maternal health care bill. ([Kentucky Lantern](#))
- A bill that would add rape and incest exceptions to Tennessee’s abortion ban failed in a House committee. ([News Channel 5 Nashville](#))

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 X

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