

News From The States

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS TODAY

Thanks for being here and [supporting our work](#).



By [Elisha Brown](#)



*A Republican senator in Kansas is pushing a bill that critics say would legally define fetuses as people.
(Sam Bailey/Kansas Reflector)*

Kansas Republicans are plowing ahead with the anti-abortion agenda the party [outlined](#) for 2024.

GOP Sen. Renee Erickson introduced a [bill](#) Monday that would allow pregnant women to claim child support for medical and pregnancy-related expenses, starting at conception, [Kansas Reflector](#) reported. Erickson's proposal would also add "unborn children" to the legal definition of child.

The state's prominent anti-abortion groups support the measure. **Mackenzie Haddix, spokeswoman for Kansans for Life, said the bill would reduce pregnancy terminations by offering expectant mothers money.** "Overall, no woman should ever feel that abortion is her only option," Haddix said.

Reproductive rights groups said the bill is an attempt to put “fetal personhood” into law, even though Kansas voters overwhelmingly [rejected](#) an anti-abortion constitutional amendment in August 2022.

“This is a tactic that is used to make it easier to enact anti-abortion laws down the road,” said Taylor Morton of Planned Parenthood Great Plains Votes. “It is in direct opposition to broad public support for abortion access in Kansas.”

In 2019, the Kansas Supreme Court ruled that bodily autonomy rights protect the decision to terminate a pregnancy. The state allows abortion up to 22 weeks after gestation and beyond if the person’s life is in danger.

THE BEAT *States Newsroom coverage*

Abortion a dividing issue in New Hampshire governor’s race

Abortion has emerged as an issue in the campaigns to replace Republican New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu, according to [New Hampshire Bulletin](#). **Democratic candidates Cinde Warmingon and Joyce Craig want to repeal the state’s ban on abortion after 24 weeks. Republican contenders Kelly Ayotte and Chuck Morse have said they support the current [law](#)**, which allows the procedure later in pregnancy for fatal fetal anomalies and if the mother’s life or health is at risk.

GOP efforts to enact abortion restrictions in the state failed earlier this month: House lawmakers indefinitely tabled a 15-day ban and voted against a 15-week ban, the [Bulletin](#) reported. **A Democratic-led bill that would ask voters to codify the state’s abortion law, which allows pregnancy terminations up to 24 weeks, also faltered.** That hasn’t stopped a multi-state political action committee from spending \$40 million in a bid to elect more Democrats in New Hampshire. **Campaign for a Family Friendly Economy** is focused on the gubernatorial and state legislative races and wants to boost candidates who support paid leave, abortion access and child care policies.

Iowa House panel approves governor’s over-the-counter birth control bill

A three-member House panel approved Republican Gov. Kim Reynolds’ proposal to make birth control available without a prescription, [Iowa Capital Dispatch](#) reported. **The bill would let pharmacists distribute certain contraceptives — pills, vaginal rings and patches, for example — without a doctor’s approval.** “Allowing access for Iowa women will reduce unintended pregnancies and reduce reliance on government assistance,” said Molly Severn, the governor’s deputy chief of staff.

Reynolds has pushed for expanding birth control access, saying it would help reduce abortions. Iowa allows abortions up to 20 weeks of pregnancy, but a blocked [six-week ban](#) is being challenged in the courts, according to the Capital Dispatch.

Some anti-abortion advocates opposed the measure. Maggie DeWitte, executive director of Pulse Life Advocates, said contraceptives are linked to increased risk of breast cancer. [The overall risk of breast cancer among birth control users is low](#), according to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

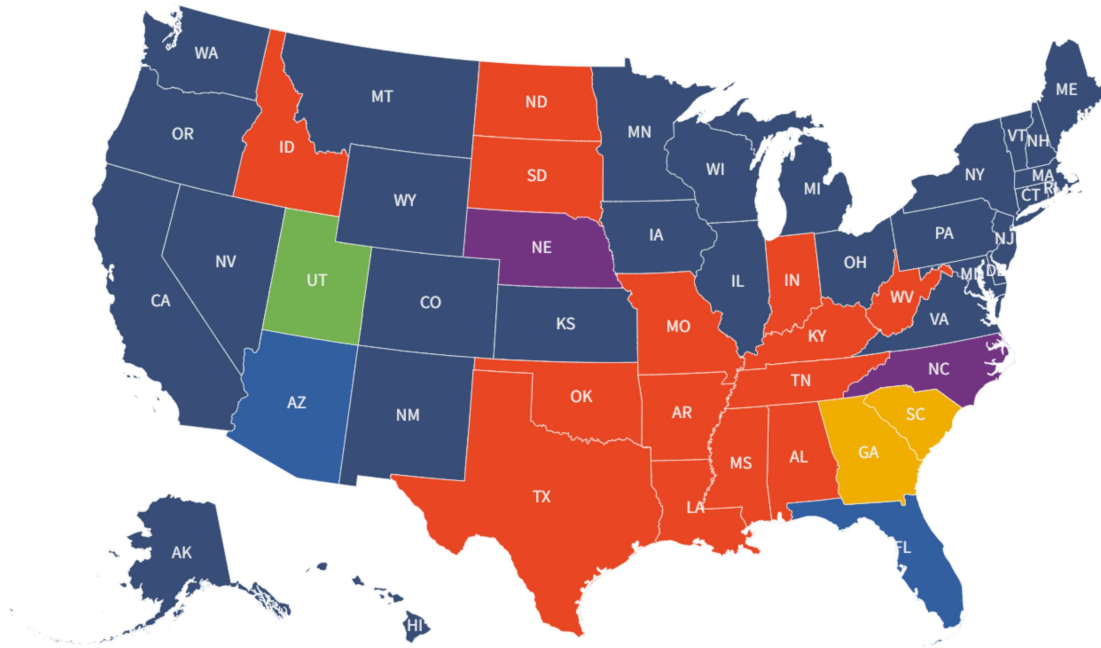
THE PULL *Commentary from Nebraska*

“Once a big-tent party that won elections by occupying slightly right-of-center to liberal policy positions, the Nebraska Democratic Party now comes across as demanding ideological purity. Most recently, the Douglas County Democratic Party cut ties with State Sen. Mike McDonnell over his faith-based opposition to abortion. Never mind his labor background and possible strong bid to become Omaha’s next mayor.” — **C. David Kotok**, contributor, [Nebraska Examiner](#)

THE PULSE *Reproductive rights news across the country*

- Democrats running for office in conservative-leaning Orange County, California, are emphasizing abortion rights throughout their campaigns. ([Los Angeles Times](#))
- Doctors said patients in states with abortion restrictions are requesting prenatal testing during the first trimester, when it can be difficult to detect abnormalities. ([Associated Press](#))
- New research shows that women who develop high blood pressure or diabetes during pregnancy are more likely to pass chronic conditions over to their children. ([The New York Times](#))
- More than 10,000 women who gave birth in 2022 had syphilis, up from roughly 3,400 cases in 2016, according to federal data. ([CNN](#))

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 [@elishacbrown](#).

©News From The States, all rights reserved.

www.newsfromthestates.com | info@newsfromthestates.com

Manage your donation and subscription preferences [here](#).

Add info@newsfromthestates.com to your [address book](#) to ensure delivery.
Did someone forward you this newsletter? [Click here](#) to get it delivered to your inbox.

States Newsroom – News From The States
1414 Raleigh Rd #127
Chapel Hill, NC 27517
United States

You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website or States Newsroom. If you believe you received this message in error or wish to change your subscription, please (Unsubscribing is not supported in previews).