

News From The States

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS TODAY

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By [Elisha Brown](#)



*Michigan GOP Rep. Josh Schriver suggested banning hormonal birth control and reposted billionaire Elon Musk's misleading X post about the harms of contraceptives.
(Getty Images)*

Doctors and reproductive rights advocates are condemning a Michigan Republican's endorsement of misleading statements about hormonal birth control and his suggestion that lawmakers should ban them.

According to [Michigan Advance](#), state **Rep. Josh Schriver** shared an X post written by **Elon Musk**, the social media site's owner, alleging that hormonal birth control "makes you fat, doubles risk of depression & triples risk of suicide. This is the clear scientific consensus, but very few people seem to know it."

There is no “clear scientific consensus” on the risks of [weight gain](#) or [psychiatric conditions](#) while using hormonal contraceptives, according to modern research. Still, Schriver reposted Musk’s assertion and [wrote](#), “If doctors are sworn to ‘do no harm,’ then lawmakers should look into banning hormonal birth control.’

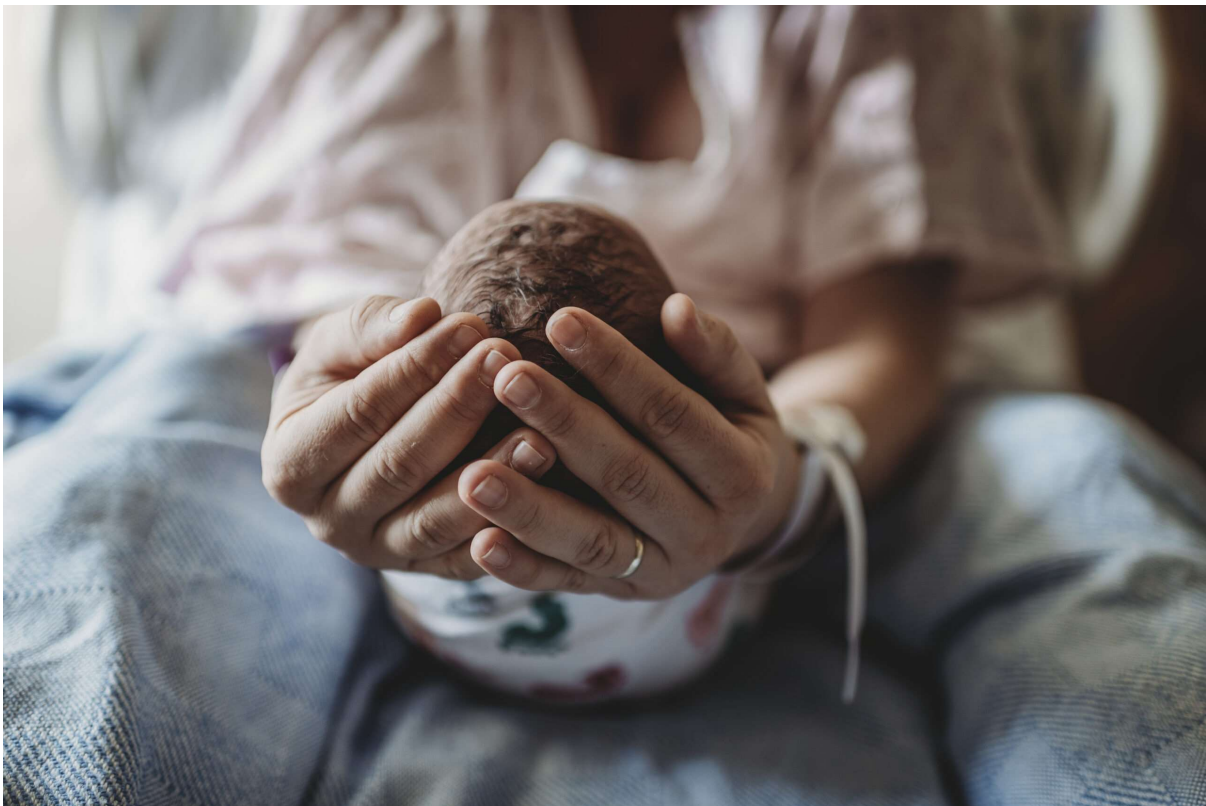
Dr. Farhan Bhatti, a family physician and the Michigan lead for the **Committee to Protect Health Care**, said efforts to restrict contraceptives could harm Michiganders.

“It’s unbelievable that in this day and age, Rep. Schriver has to be told that contraception is a safe and absolutely critical component of health care for many people, protecting both their bodily autonomy and their health,” Bhatti told the Advance.

Any attempt to ban birth control would run contrary to Michigan voters’ approval of a [reproductive rights constitutional amendment](#) in November 2022. The referendum codified the right to abortion along with personal decisions about contraception, childbirth, infertility treatments, miscarriage management, pregnancy care and sterilization.

THE BEAT *States Newsroom coverage*

Iowa Senate passes postpartum Medicaid expansion bill with income restrictions



*Republican Gov. Kim Reynolds made postpartum Medicaid expansion in Iowa, one of the few states that hasn't enacted the policy, a priority this year.
(Getty Images)*

Iowa senators approved two bills Monday that Republicans said would improve maternal health care. **The measures would expand postpartum Medicaid coverage from two months to a year and boost a program that gives taxpayer funds to anti-abortion centers**, [Iowa Capital Dispatch](#) reported. Democrats criticized requirements in the postpartum Medicaid bill that limit eligibility to families with incomes at or below 215% of the federal poverty line.

“This is a real disappointment, that the governor was the holdout on expanding postpartum coverage — 47 states have already done it,” said Democratic Sen. Janet Petersen. “We finally get the governor’s bill to expand postpartum coverage, and she does it at the expense of pregnant women and their babies.”

A fiscal note estimated that **1,300 women and 400 babies could lose Medicaid coverage** under the restriction. Republican Sen. Mark Costello defended the caveat. “Iowans do not support Medicaid for all,” he said. “And this amendment will allow that same household of four, making \$112,500, to be eligible for Medicaid.”

The state Senate also voted to give Iowa health officials **greater oversight of the More Options for Maternal Support (MOMS) program, which funds crisis pregnancy centers** that promote abortion alternatives. The bill allows the Department of Health and Human Services to directly manage the program and contract with providers. Democrats tried to amend the policy by requiring providers to adhere to medical standards, use licensed professionals and offer mental health counseling, but the efforts failed.

Maryland legislative women’s caucus counts maternal health services as priority

Women Legislators of Maryland is focused on improving maternal health care, expanding child care and calling for the revival of the Equal Rights Amendment this legislative session. **There are about 30 lawmakers in the caucus, but no members are Republicans**, according to [Maryland Matters](#). **GOP lawmakers resigned in protest from the group two years ago after Democrats bucked leadership tradition** — typically one Republican and one Democrat leads the caucus every other year.

The caucus agenda has moved to the left since then. Last year, the group prioritized abortion rights: The Democratic-controlled legislature passed a reproductive rights measure that will appear on the November ballot. Now, the caucus is pushing a resolution that would urge President Joe Biden and Congress to affirm the **Equal Rights Amendment**, which Maryland ratified in 1972. **Del. Kathy Szeliga, a Republican, dismissed the proposal**, calling it “100% virtue signaling.”

Texas abortion seekers with disabilities face barriers to access

Providers and abortion rights advocates in Texas, which bans most pregnancy terminations, said they've noticed a **decrease in patients with disabilities** seeking care. "We're not seeing them traveling over the border," Amy Hagstrom Miller, CEO of Whole Woman's Health, told the [Texas Tribune](#). "They just represent a group of people that are falling through the cracks."

Transportation is one of the biggest problems for those with disabilities who want abortions, said Grace McGarry, manager of Whole Woman's Health's hotline. Low income and medical complications can also hinder getting an abortion elsewhere. For instance, a dialysis patient sought an in-clinic abortion, but if she was out of town for more than two days she would miss her dialysis treatment. The organization made travel arrangements that allowed her to get an abortion and return home in time for her dialysis appointment.

THE PULL *Commentary from Virginia*

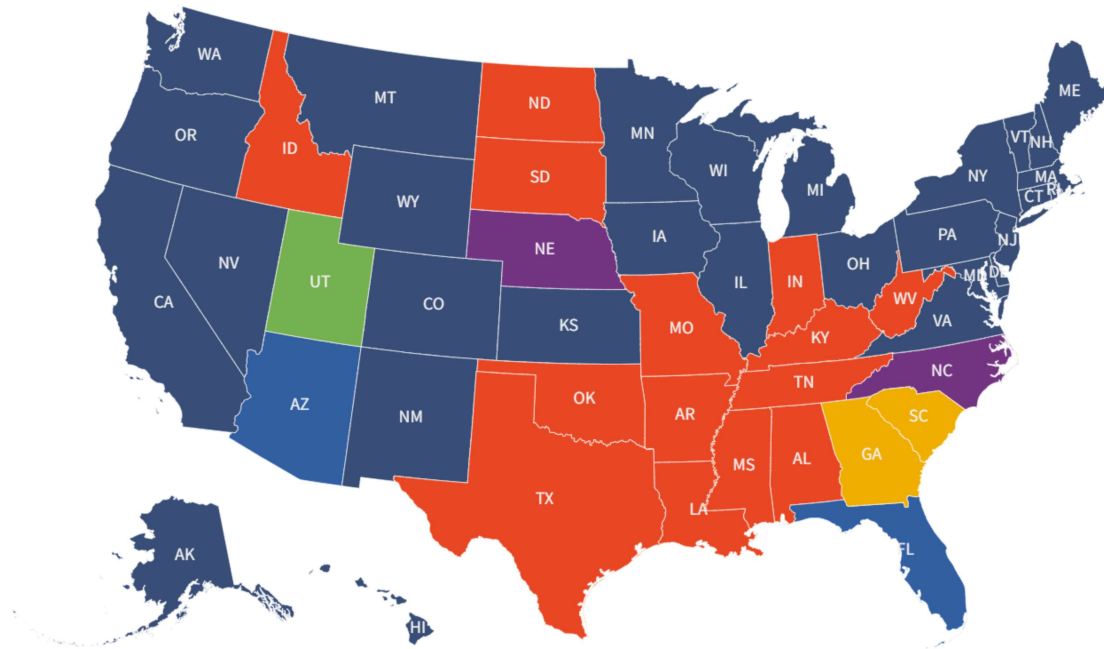
"Last Monday, the Democrats decided to play political hardball with an issue that is increasingly toxic to the GOP, especially in suburban districts: abortion. Conservative Republican Del. Tim Griffin from Bedford had introduced a bill would have denied public funding to clinics and hospitals that perform abortions, even if women had been victims of rape or incest, or their lives were endangered. And the Democrats pounced." — **David J. Toscano**, former mayor of Charlottesville and Democratic delegate, [Virginia Mercury](#).

THE PULSE *Reproductive rights news across the country*

- The Idaho House is weighing legislation that would require insurers to cover advanced supplies of contraceptives; the majority of Idahoans back affordable birth control access, according to a recent survey. ([Idaho Capital Sun](#))
- Reproductive health advocates are urging Maine legislators to approve a bill mandating insurance coverage of over-the-counter contraceptives. ([Maine Morning Star](#))
- Wyoming lawmakers could temporarily close the state's only abortion clinic that provides surgical procedures if a bill making clinics obtain ambulatory surgical center licenses passes. ([Jackson Hole Community Radio](#))
- Most Texas voters support abortion ban exceptions for rape, incest and birth defects, a new poll found. ([Austin American-Statesman](#))
- Liberty Counsel, a religious law firm, submitted a filing to the Florida Supreme Court, which is reviewing an abortion rights petition, about an Alabama high court decision that classified embryos as "children." ([Daily Beast](#))

- Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., fired a psychology instructor after she invited an abortion doula to her class. ([Inside Higher Ed](#))

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](#).

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