
Wyoming's limited abortion access in peril

Reproductive Rights Today <info@newsfromthestates.com>
Reply-To: info@newsfromthestates.com
To: ebrown@statesnewsroom.com

Mon, Mar 6, 2023 at 7:00 AM

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it in your web browser](#)

— **News From The States** —
REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS
TODAY



By Elisha Brown



(Getty Images)

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn the constitutional right to abortion last year led to months of confusion stoked by a flux of state laws and court rulings. Some state judiciaries have protected reproductive rights based on constitutional rights to privacy. In January, the **South Carolina** Supreme Court – the majority opinion was issued by [Justice Kaye Hearn](#), the lone woman on the state bench, who [retired](#) last month – permanently blocked the [six-week abortion ban](#) based on privacy rights protected in the state constitution. During the same month, the **Idaho** Supreme Court [upheld the state's abortion ban](#), concluding that the state code does not protect abortion rights. Legal challenges to abortion restrictions are still pending in courts across the country.

Nationwide, as of March 1, **36 cases in 21 states** have been filed against abortion bans, according to a [litigation tracker](#) crafted by the Brennan Center for Justice and the Center for Reproductive Rights. In **Wyoming**, a state with one abortion clinic, the high court has yet to rule on the state's blocked-for-now abortion ban. Another ban is likely after state legislators recently crafted bills that they hope can maneuver around personal health care rights.

THE BEAT *States Newsroom coverage*

Wyoming passes another abortion ban

Abortion access in Wyoming is already sparse: as of December, the state has a **single clinic** in [Jackson](#). Wyoming state lawmakers passed **two anti-abortion bills** – one bans medication abortion, the other states abortion is not health care – that Gov. **Mark Gordon**, a Republican, is expected to sign into law, [States Newsroom](#) reported last week. The point of the legislation, which critics expect will also be blocked by the courts if signed into law, is to skirt the state constitution during legal challenges, according to **National Reproductive Rights Reporter Kelcie Moseley-Morris**.

In 2012, voters added an amendment to the Wyoming Constitution that declares adults are allowed to make their own health care decisions. The amendment was intended to safeguard against the Affordable Care Act, but it was also part of the reason a judge temporarily blocked Wyoming's trigger ban last year. It is unclear when the state's high court will rule on the constitutionality of the ban.

Missouri's postpartum Medicaid bill receives skepticism

The Missouri Senate passed a bill that would expand Medicaid for new mothers from 60 days to a year, [Missouri Independent](#) reported Thursday. But the bill's language faced skepticism from Democrats – some of the wording appears to exclude people who get elective abortions from health care coverage. (The state bans all abortions except those deemed medical emergencies.) This is how the bill reads: "No woman who knowingly receives services that are in violation of state law shall be eligible for benefits under this subdivision."

Senate Democrats ultimately voted for the bill but called on the House to tighten the language to ensure the **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** will approve the proposal if signed into law. The President Pro Tem, a Republican, said the language was added to ensure people would not break the law to get postpartum health care.

Direct democracy initiative moves along in Ohio

The Ohio Attorney General's office recently certified the language of a proposed amendment that seeks to enshrine abortion rights in the state constitution, according to [Ohio Capital](#)

Journal. Now, the state ballot board will make sure the language only includes one amendment. Next, the proposal goes back to the AG, who sends it over to the Ohio Secretary of State. Then, the abortion advocates who proposed the constitutional amendment will be able to start the signature gathering process. They'll need signatures from people in half of Ohio's 88 counties, and the signature total must equal 5% of the total votes cast for the governor in each county for the potential abortion amendment to appear on ballots this November.

Abortion in Ohio is broadly legal up to 22 weeks, but in October, a six-week ban was blocked by a judge indefinitely while a lawsuit against the restriction proceeds. The amendment, if successfully added to the constitution by voters, would codify reproductive rights in the state. Last year, voters in five states – California, Kentucky, Kansas, Michigan and Montana – either rejected an anti-abortion proposal or added abortion rights to their state codes.

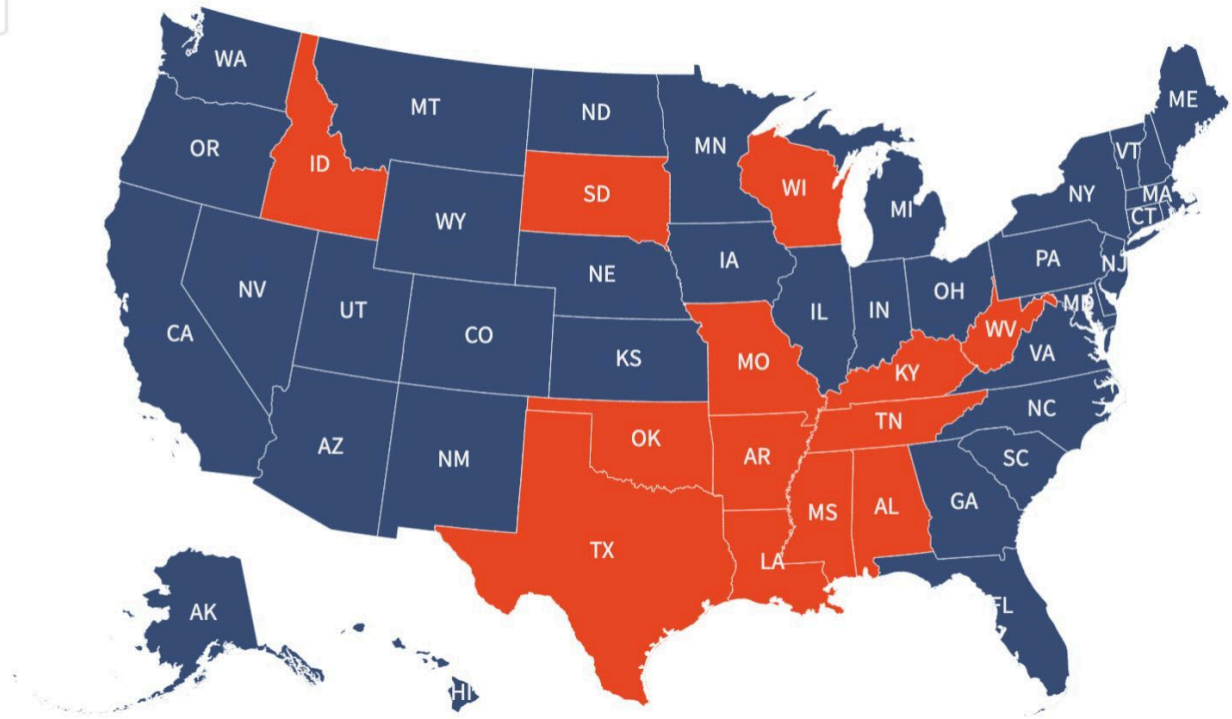
THE PULSE *Reproductive rights news across the country*

- A proposal in Connecticut offers debt relief to domestic violence survivors who also suffered financial abuse. ([Connecticut Mirror](#).)
- In Maine, 67% of people polled back a law that would allow for abortions up to 24 weeks when medically-necessary, and 73% of Mainers polled support a paid family leave program. ([Maine Beacon](#).)
- The West Virginia House passed a bill last week that would ban child marriage and make the age of consent 18. ([Mountain State Spotlight](#).)
- Premature births fell by about 4% in wealthy countries during the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, researchers found. ([The New York Times](#).)
- The Pennsylvania Women's Health Caucus plans to prioritize reproductive rights, including improving maternal health, this session. ([Pennsylvania Capital-Star](#).)

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

State by state abortion access status

● Banned ● Allowed



[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](#).

News From The States

A PROJECT OF STATES NEWSROOM

Did someone forward you this newsletter?

[SUBSCRIBE](#) | [LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR NEWSROOMS](#) | [FOLLOW](#)

Share this with your community:



Copyright © 2023 States Newsroom, all rights reserved.

1414 Raleigh Rd #127 | Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27517

info@newsfromthestates.com

You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website or Facebook signup form.

TO MANAGE YOUR ACCOUNT, CLICK ON "UNSUBSCRIBE" BELOW

Unsubscribe or Manage Your Preferences