
TODAY

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A bill to improve pregnancy outcomes in Kentucky had bipartisan support until Republican Rep. Nancy Tate added a perinatal palliative care mandate for nonviable pregnancies. (Kentucky Legislative Research Commission Public Information)

The legislative session in Kentucky is winding down soon, but it's unclear if a maternal health 'omnibus' bill will advance.

Republican Rep. Nancy Tate sponsored a bill that would make providers offer palliative care to patients who have nonviable pregnancies, [Kentucky Lantern](#) reported.

The change caused the American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky to pull its support.

“A clean Momnibus, we’re 100% behind,” Angela Cooper, the state ACLU affiliate’s communications director, told the Lantern.

“The problem is including any language from that bill ... just opens the door for potential coercion,” Cooper said. “It opens the door for people to be counseled in a way that is contrary to the standard of care.”

Tamarra Wieder, director of Kentucky’s Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates, said the palliative care mandate is divisive and “politics at its worst.”

Other opponents of the [bill](#) said hospitals already offer perinatal palliative care, meaning the legislation would be duplicative.

Tate said she included the language to “consider the psychological and faith challenges associated with post-termination” and provide abortion alternatives.

GOP Rep. Kim Moser, the bill’s co-sponsor, said she was surprised at pushback to the latest version of the bill. The General Assembly had to approve the bill Thursday to retain its right to override a veto from Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear.

THE BEAT *States Newsroom coverage*

Missouri looks to mirror Arkansas law that cut Planned Parenthood Medicaid funding



Missouri Planned Parenthood clinics stopped providing abortions after the state enacted a near-total ban in 2022. The organization still offers reproductive health services. (Michael B. Thomas/Getty Images)

Lawmakers in Missouri have repeatedly tried to eliminate funding for Planned Parenthood in the state budget, a move that the state Supreme Court ruled [unconstitutional](#). Now, Republicans are looking to [Arkansas](#), which cut Planned Parenthood Medicaid funding for nonabortion services nearly 10 years ago, to target the organization.

[Missouri Independent](#) reported that **the GOP-led legislature is considering a [bill](#) that would bar any public funding, including Medicaid reimbursements, from going to clinics affiliated with abortion providers in other states.** Planned Parenthood clinics in the state do not provide abortions, but they offer several services, including birth control, cancer screenings and STD testing. Supporters of the measure said Medicaid patients can find another health care provider if the law passes.

Emily Wales, CEO and president of Planned Parenthood Great Plains, said **the organization hasn't received Medicaid reimbursements since 2022.** Wales told the Independent the group uses private fundraising to offset the costs needed to serve Medicaid patients. She's not sure how sustainable that resource will be in the long-term for patients with low income.

Missouri Family Health Council executive director Michelle Trupiano said **Planned Parenthood is the primary family planning services provider**

for about 20,000 patients. “Excluding one of the most qualified well known and high volume family planning providers from participating in Medicaid and other programs would have a devastating impact on all safety net providers and patients,” she said.

Maryland lawmakers scramble to secure funding for abortion clinics

Two Democrats are trying to advance bills that would pay for services and security at reproductive health clinics before the legislative session ends in less than two weeks, [Maryland Matters](#) reported.

Sen. Ariana B. Kelly’s bill would use funds that insurers are required to collect by federal law if they cover abortion. Kelly, who recently announced [she’s leaving office](#) to lead the Maryland Commission for Women, hopes her [bill](#) could direct millions of dollars to expanding abortion access. She said the funds will help people without insurance and those who can’t use their insurance because of domestic violence reasons.

A bill sponsored by Sen. Sarah K. Elfreth would focus on bolstering security at abortion clinics using grants from the Maryland Department of Health. The [measure](#) would provide funding for security cameras, alarms, perimeter lighting and panic buttons. Kelly said leftover money from her legislation could help fund Elfreth’s proposal. “Since Maryland already pays for Medicaid abortions, we can do a fund swap,” Kelly said.

Iowa AG criticized for pausing payments for services for sexual assault survivors

Iowa Auditor **Rob Sand**, a Democrat, said that Republican Attorney General **Brenna Bird** is “avoiding accountability” for pausing payments to programs that help sexual assault victims pay for emergency contraception. After she was elected in 2022, Bird announced that she would conduct a “full audit of victim services” and pause the **Sexual Assault Examination Payment Program**, which is also used to pay for abortions in rare cases.

Sand said in a news conference Wednesday that neither his office nor a third party was auditing the program, [Iowa Capital Dispatch](#) reported.

“This is her decision on day one to quit paying for emergency contraception for sexual assault survivors,” Sand said. He said it’s unusual to suspend an entity unless there’s suspicion of “massive fraud.” The attorney general’s office has not released a review of victims’ services programs, according to the [Des Moines Register](#). Alyssa Brouillet, communications director for Bird’s office, said Sand is “playing politics with a critical audit of victim services,” and the report will be released once it’s finalized.

THE PULL *Commentary from Alabama*

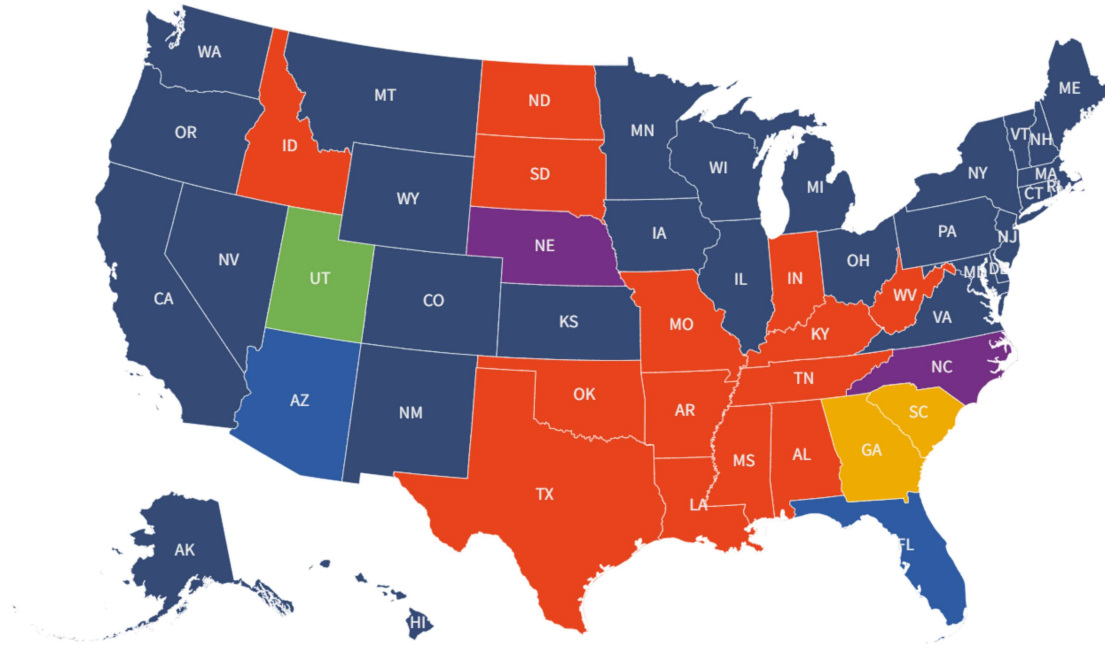
“The state’s abortion ban is unpopular. The Alabama Supreme Court’s attempt to ban in vitro fertilization might be even more despised, based on Republicans’ scramble to protect IVF...Republican leadership in the Legislature over the last two years has tried to avoid talking about the issue. Some of this is natural: When you have an effective abortion ban, there’s nowhere else to go.”

— **Brian Lyman**, editor, [Alabama Reflector](#)

THE PULSE *Reproductive rights news from across the country*

- The Florida Supreme Court has yet to rule on an abortion rights referendum. ([Florida Phoenix](#))
- Legislation that would protect in vitro fertilization in Kansas failed in the Republican-led Senate. ([Kansas Reflector](#))
- New Mexico Medicaid will now cover over-the-counter birth control pills, pregnancy tests and emergency contraception. ([KUNM](#))
- Anti-abortion activists have several backup plans to ban abortion pills if the U.S. Supreme Court rejects arguments for restricting mifepristone. ([Politico](#))
- A review of abortion policies at jails across 13 states found that many have “vague, confusing or nonexistent” guidelines on pregnancy termination. ([The Marshall Project](#))

STATE BY STATE Abortion Access in the US



[Open interactive map](#)

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