



Democrats are Fighting for Reproductive Freedom

After decades of Republican efforts to repeal *Roe v. Wade* and the US Supreme Court's decision to overturn nearly 50 years of precedent, reproductive freedom is no longer a constitutional right in the United States. Fifteen states have already banned abortion, and several more are expected to follow shortly. Democrats nationwide are fighting to ensure that women have the freedom to make their own reproductive health decisions.

State Legislation

As of June 1, 2022, Democrats in 5 states have enacted new laws protecting access to legal abortion. Colorado codified the right to continue or end a pregnancy and to use or refuse contraception, and the state is prohibited from restricting or interfering with access. New Jersey protected abortion and other reproductive health services by making such care a fundamental right in the state.

In total, [62 pieces of legislation](#) have been introduced in 17 states to protect access to legal abortion, and an additional 39 pieces of legislation in 12 states seek to repeal existing abortion restrictions. State lawmakers have also introduced legislation to expand access to abortion coverage in Medicaid and private health insurance plans, increase access to medication abortion, and protect women and providers. For example, Connecticut has enacted a law that would limit the effect of out-of-state abortion bans by preventing individuals and organizations from prosecution for providing or receiving reproductive health services in Connecticut.

Ballot Initiatives

In [Vermont, California, Michigan, and Arizona](#), residents are working on ballot measures that would guarantee a right to abortion in their state constitutions. In Michigan, [over 750,000 voters](#) have signed the petition – more than double the required number, and the most in state history.

Lawsuits

At least [13 states](#) have active lawsuits challenging trigger laws. [Michigan](#) and [Wisconsin](#) Democratic officials have filed lawsuits to fight against the enforcement of archaic state abortion laws. Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, and Utah's trigger laws are blocked from being enforced due to state courts granting temporary restraining orders.

Democratic Governors

Democratic governors have issued [executive orders](#) and are using other resources to protect access to abortion services in their states. In [North Carolina](#) and [Michigan](#), governors have signed executive orders seeking to protect reproductive freedom. In [California](#) and [Colorado](#), governors have taken action to protect patients and providers from liability and prosecution over out-of-state abortion bans.

Biden Administration Actions

In response to the Supreme Court decision, President Biden signed an [executive order](#) which directs agencies to protect access to medication abortion and contraception, ensure access to emergency medical care, and convene pro bono attorneys to assist patients and providers. The executive order also protects consumers and patients from privacy violations, fraud, and deceptive information, as well as takes steps to protect sensitive health information.

Previously, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has provided [\\$3 million in funding](#) for Title X family planning providers to bolster these providers nationwide. The Administration also launched reproductiverights.gov, which provides information and resources about access and coverage of reproductive health care. The HHS Office of Civil Rights issued [guidance](#) to ensure that patients' health information is protected and provided guidance for individuals on how to protect their health information on their personal cell phones and other devices.