

Bans on Method of Abortion

Method-based bans, which restrict access to abortion care based on specific methods—such as dilation and extraction (D&E), the standard method for abortion care after about 14-15 weeks of pregnancy—are part of an orchestrated national strategy by anti-choice politicians to push abortion care out of reach. The anti-choice movement often deploys disinformation, inflammatory rhetoric, and graphic imagery in order to push method bans. This is intended to evoke strong reactions, de-emphasize or erase the pregnant person, and further stigmatize abortion care.

A pregnant person's health, not politics, should guide important medical decisions at every point in pregnancy. These bans interfere with care and tell doctors how to practice medicine or force them to act against their best medical judgment. These bans are a transparent effort to block abortion access by setting up barriers to abortion that delay care and push people later into a pregnancy and then ban the methods of care available at that point in pregnancy.

The U.S. Supreme Court recently heard *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, a case involving Mississippi's 15-week abortion ban that directly challenges *Roe v. Wade* and violates nearly 50 years of precedent. This pivotal case underscores the dire threats that reproductive freedom and abortion access in the United States currently face. There is no path for the Court to uphold Mississippi's ban without overturning *Roe*. If *Roe* were to fall, bans on abortion previously blocked by courts could go into effect, further eroding access to abortion in states across the country.



STATE MEASURES **RESTRICTING** REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

Medication Abortion Care Bans:

4 STATES ban medication abortion care after an arbitrary point in pregnancy: **IN, MT, OK, TX.**

- (For more details about the types of restrictions, see Medication Abortion Care Report).

D&E Bans:

13 STATES ban the standard method for abortion care after 14-15 weeks, dilation and evacuation (D&E): **AL, AR, IN, KS, KY, LA, MS, NE, ND, OH, OK, TX, WV.**

Other Method Bans:

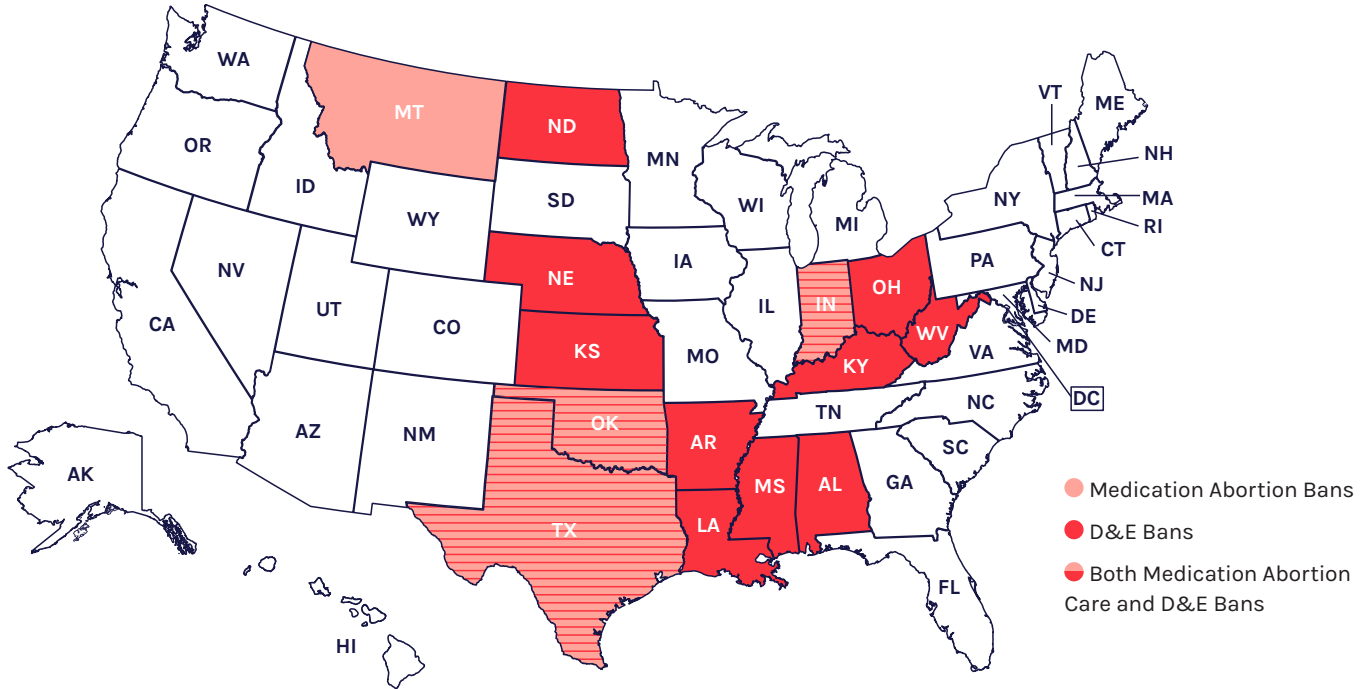
31 STATES ban a method for abortion care as early as 12 weeks*: **AL, AK, AZ, AR, FL, GA, ID, IN, IA, KS, KY, LA, MI, MS, MO, MT, NE, NH, NJ, NM, ND, OH, OK, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, WV, WI.**

- Only one state, Ohio, has a narrow exception for the health of the pregnant person.
- A federal ban* that became law in 2007 supersedes the state laws.

* Many efforts to block abortion access by restricting methods of providing care are referred to using false and intentionally inflammatory non-medical terms. These terms, such as the misleading phrase “partial-birth abortion bans,” were coined by the anti-choice movement to confuse and manipulate people.

2021 ENACTED STATE MEASURES **RESTRICTING** REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

4 STATES enacted bans on medication abortion care after an arbitrary point in pregnancy: **IN, MT, OK, TX.**



STATE	Medication Abortion Bans	D&E Bans	Other Method Bans
Alabama		X	X
Alaska			X
Arizona			X
Arkansas		X	X
California			
Colorado			
Connecticut			
Delaware			
D.C.			
Florida			X
Georgia			X
Hawaii			
Idaho			X
Illinois			
Indiana	X	X	X
Iowa			X
Kansas		X	X
Kentucky		X	X
Louisiana		X	X
Maine			
Maryland			
Massachusetts			
Michigan			X
Minnesota			
Mississippi		X	X
Missouri			X
Montana	X		X

STATE	Medication Abortion Bans	D&E Bans	Other Method Bans
Nebraska		X	X
Nevada			
New Hampshire			X
New Jersey			X
New Mexico			X
New York			
North Carolina			
North Dakota		X	X
Ohio		X	X
Oklahoma	X	X	X
Oregon			
Pennsylvania			
Rhode Island			
South Carolina			X
South Dakota			X
Tennessee			X
Texas	X	X	X
Utah			X
Vermont			
Virginia			X
Washington			
West Virginia		X	X
Wisconsin			X
Wyoming			
TOTAL	4	13	31

► **Bold** indicates bans currently in effect. Courts have blocked the other bans, but these may go into effect if the Supreme Court overturns *Roe v. Wade* and allows states to ban abortion.