

Abortion Ban

[HB 126](#) - [Rep. Schroer](#) (R-107, O'Fallon) | [HB 870](#) - [Rep. Gregory](#) (R-96, St. Louis County)
[SB 139](#) - [Sen. Koenig](#) (R-15, Manchester)

These extreme bills would ban almost all abortion in Missouri while endangering the health of pregnant people.

This extreme legislation would make abortion illegal in nearly all circumstances in our state.

House Bills 126 & 870, and Senate Bill 139 would ban abortion after a fetal heart tone is detected, which is as early as six weeks. They contain no exceptions for rape or incest. At six weeks, most people do not even know they are pregnant. Make no mistake: this legislation is intended to ban almost all abortion Missouri and bring a court case to challenge *Roe v. Wade*.

As a health care provider, Planned Parenthood's top priority is making sure every pregnant person can control their own body and make their own health care decisions without interference from politicians.

- These measures could take away a pregnant person's right to make their own medical decisions before they would have known they had a decision to make.
- Leading medical organizations, including the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), oppose these laws because they prevent providers from giving their patients the best health care possible in every situation. Because the only exception is for a medical emergency, these policies could prevent a doctor from providing needed medical care to a pregnant person if that care might endanger an ongoing pregnancy.
- ACOG opposes abortion bans like these because they lead to worse health outcomes. ["Decreasing women's access to abortion will likely increase negative health outcomes and complications, including maternal and infant mortality."](#)
- According to ACOG, bans like these put doctors "in an impossible position between the law and providing evidence-based, individualized, and medically necessary care to their patients."

These bills would ban abortion as early as six weeks into a pregnancy, which is before many people even know they are pregnant.

- These measures could take away a pregnant person's right to make their own medical decisions before they would have known they had a decision to make.
- Further, the legislation requires that the pregnant person obtain an abortion within 96 hours of beginning the required process, while still going through all of the informed consent requirements. If they are unable to obtain an abortion within 96 hours, they must begin the process all over. As a result, even people who begin the process to obtain abortion at the



Planned Parenthood® in pregnancy may still end up being denied an abortion because of the state.

Planned Parenthood Advocates in Missouri

These measures threaten the health and safety of pregnant people.

- Banning abortion does not end abortion; it only makes it less safe and puts pregnant people and their families at risk.
- The bills would also prohibit a doctor from providing care even if the pregnancy is diagnosed with serious fetal anomalies. These are incredibly difficult decisions and they cannot be clumped into one category – serious fetal anomalies fall into a range of areas and each individual needs to be able to make the right decision for themselves and their family based on their specific diagnosis, without the interference of politicians.

Abortion bans like these are unconstitutional. The U.S. Supreme Court has consistently held for more than 40 years that states may not ban abortion prior to viability, which is around 24 weeks.

- Similar legislation in Arkansas and North Dakota has been struck down by the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals in recent years.

Instead of continuing to attack access to safe, legal abortion, lawmakers should focus on improving Missourians' health.

- Missouri's maternal mortality rate is rising, and it is disproportionately high for people of color ([United Health Care](#)). Lawmakers should prioritize measures to make sure that every Missourian can have a safe and healthy pregnancy.
- There are communities in Missouri with infant mortality rates higher than those of some developing countries ([Missouri Foundation for Health](#)). The Legislature ought to advance policies that ensure better health outcomes for mothers and babies alike.
- The Legislature should work together to pass common-sense policies that research shows will benefit Missourians' health, like ensuring all students receive sex education, increasing access to birth control, and expanding access to health care coverage through Medicaid expansion.
- Lawmakers should use the money they would spend defending an unconstitutional bill in court to instead fund efforts to improve maternal and child health outcomes, especially as some Missouri counties have seen these outcomes worsen.