

THE STATE OF REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE IN OHIO AND WHERE WE GO FROM HERE



It's been four years since the *Dobbs v. Jackson* decision overturned the right to an abortion established by *Roe v. Wade*. Now it seems like we hear a new story everyday of women getting seriously injured – or even dying – because they are unable to get medical care, including prenatal care and abortion care.

We're left with a confusing patchwork of state-by-state abortion bans that women are forced to navigate – all while threats continue to birth control, women's healthcare and research, maternal mortality and more.

WHAT WE'RE WATCHING IN OHIO

While we enshrined Reproductive Healthcare in the Ohio Constitution back in 2023, we still see challenges to access and services provided. We know there are laws on the books that need to be challenged through the courts. And our coalition partners are doing that work every day.

The Republican dominated Ohio Statehouse continues to propose legislation that is both unconstitutional and wastes taxpayer dollars and resources. They're reintroducing the fetal heartbeat bill as well as legislation that would require doctors to provide a "certificate of life" for all pregnancies.

In addition to attacks on abortion, Medicaid cuts have created healthcare deserts across the state. Clinics are closing, providers are leaving the state, and medical students are not choosing to complete their residency or practice in Ohio.

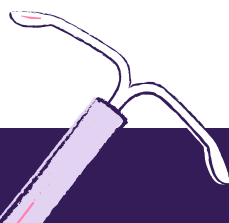
WHAT OHIOANS CAN DO

Continue to fight for the rights we voted for in 2023. Contact your representatives, including the Committee chairs where the bills are being heard – these committee chairs have the power to determine if these bills get a hearing and if they move to the floor. **Reach out to those committee chairs to move good bills and stop bad ones!**

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE AROUND THE COUNTRY

UNDERMINING MIFEPRISTONE – THE BACKDOOR ABORTION BAN

A nationwide ban would be incredibly unpopular, which is why extremists are trying to do it without us noticing. **Medication abortion, which is used in roughly two-thirds of U.S. abortions, is now at the center of the fight.** Here's what's happening:



Bogus Science and Misinformation: Mifepristone, one of the pills used in medication abortion, is safer than Tylenol, but the Trump administration wants an FDA review of the drug. Their review could lead to mifepristone being taken off the market – even in states where abortion is legal!

Legislation and Lawsuits: This is the tactic that led to the *Dobbs* decision. States like Mississippi are enacting extreme laws around medication abortion because they know they will trigger legal challenges that end up at the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court has already heard challenges to mailing mifepristone and telehealth. Their decision kept the status quo for now, but they left the door open for Republican attorneys general to try again – which they absolutely plan to do.

The Comstock Act: The anti-abortion movement wants to use this 150-year-old law to restrict access to medication used for abortion, claiming the law prohibits mailing of contraception and abortion-related materials.

BEYOND ABORTION-ATTACKS ON REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

Maternal Health: The administration's dismantling of DEI initiatives is threatening the health of women, babies, and kids. They've slashed funding for women's health research, including studies and programs that address maternal health disparities that impact Black and Indigenous women and LGBTQ+ individuals..

Family-First Policies: Massive cuts to Medicaid, health care, nutrition benefits, and early childhood education are devastating families. Our country still doesn't have universal paid family and medical leave, including leave for new moms. Many extremists claim to be pro-life, but our country is making it harder to start and support a family.

Immigration Enforcement: ICE is ripping kids away from their parents and transferring pregnant women to facilities in states where they can't get abortions. They're also keeping women – including teenagers – in detention centers with inhumane conditions and no proper medical care.

Birth Control: Have you ever heard of *abortifacient birth control*? It's a made-up term used to confuse people into thinking that birth control is abortion. The consequences of lying about birth control this way aren't hypothetical. It was used in 2025 to prevent USAID from sending contraception – IUDs, hormonal implants, and birth control pills – to women in other countries. If the official position of the current administration is that common forms of birth control are abortion and can't be used in foreign aid, what does that mean for women in our country?

It's a dangerous time for reproductive justice – but don't forget that we are in the majority! We can fight back.

Visit redwine.blue/reproductive-freedom to learn more.

