



An Open Letter from the Reproductive Freedom Leadership Council on 2018 State Abortion Bans

April 3, 2018

So far in 2018, at least 39 bills to ban abortion at different points in pregnancy, or even altogether, have been introduced in at least 19 states¹. These bills – several of which are advancing – are intended to be a direct challenge to a woman’s right to decide when or if to end a pregnancy as established in the U.S. Supreme Court’s 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision. **As state legislators, we’re calling on our fellow legislators, governors, and the courts to stop these abortion bans, protect women’s health, and respect their personal decision-making.**

As state legislators and members of the [Reproductive Freedom Leadership Council](#), we envision a nation in which each of us can make our own decisions about our reproductive health, pregnancy, and parenting, free from political interference. We view this as intrinsically woven into the broader fabric of gender and racial equity and economic justice. Today, our country falls far short of that vision. In 2018, too many of our colleagues continue to use the privilege of public service to pass new laws limiting their own constituents’ reproductive health and rights.

Outrageously, more than [400 abortion restrictions](#) have been enacted at the state level since 2011, often making it harder for a person to get the healthcare procedure she has decided she needs, or even pushing it out of reach altogether. Today, opponents of women’s health are emboldened by extremists in power in Washington and the potential for a new U.S. Supreme Court that could overturn *Roe v. Wade*. Conservative state lawmakers have launched a concerted effort to advance state bills that ban abortion in the hopes of overturning women’s constitutional right to abortion.

Some states, like [Mississippi](#) and [Louisiana](#), are inexplicably and arbitrarily aiming to ban abortion at 15 weeks; in fact, Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant signed that bill into law despite an inevitable court challenge. Other states are attempting to ban abortion at 20 weeks, and some, like [Iowa](#) and [Missouri](#), are attempting to ban abortion as early as six weeks – often before a woman even knows she is pregnant. Unbelievably, a bill in [Ohio](#) would outlaw abortion entirely.

Make no mistake: Each of these bills is in direct conflict with the promises of *Roe v. Wade*. And that’s the point. These bills are all an attempt to be the abortion ban that faces a court challenge that goes all the way to the top. These bans are an experiment in state politics and legal theory that serves only to harm women and stigmatize the nearly one in four who will need an abortion at some point in their lives.

[Americans](#) do not want to see *Roe v. Wade* overturned. [Doctors](#) warn against this. And we are here to stand together and say that legislators don’t want this. We decry these blatant attempts to take away the rights women have had for 45 years and we call on state legislators, governors, and the courts to stop these abortion bans in their tracks.

Signed,

The Reproductive Freedom Leadership Council

1 Courtesy Center for Reproductive Rights, as of March 29, 2018.



Representative Patricia Todd	Alabama	Representative Robert Martwick	Illinois
Representative Geran Tarr	Alaska	Representative Rita Mayfield	Illinois
Representative Daniel Hernandez	Arizona	Representative Camille Lilly	Illinois
Senator Juan Mendez	Arizona	Representative Jehan Gordon-Booth	Illinois
Representative Wenona Benally	Arizona	Representative Sara Feigenholtz	Illinois
Representative Athena Salman	Arizona	Representative Laura Fine	Illinois
Representative Isela Blanc	Arizona	Representative Scott Drury	Illinois
Representative Rosanna Gabaldon	Arizona	Senator Don Harmon	Illinois
Senator Andrea Dalessandro	Arizona	Representative Christian Mitchell	Illinois
Senator Joyce Elliott	Arkansas	Representative Ann Williams	Illinois
Representative Vivian Flowers	Arkansas	Representative Kelly Cassidy	Illinois
Assemblyman David Chiu	California	Representative Robyn Gabel	Illinois
Representative Dafna Michaelson Jenet	Colorado	Senator Mattie Hunter	Illinois
Representative Chris Hansen	Colorado	Representative Will Guzzardi	Illinois
Senator Steve Fenberg	Colorado	Senator Toi Hutchinson	Illinois
Representative Edie Hooton	Colorado	Majority Leader Barbara Flynn Currie	Illinois
Representative Mike Weissman	Colorado	Representative Vicki Lensing	Iowa
Representative Leslie Herod	Colorado	State Representative Liz Bennett	Iowa
Representative Brittany Pettersen	Colorado	Representative Marti Anderson	Iowa
Representative Joann Ginal	Colorado	Senator Joe Bolcom	Iowa
Senator Rhonda Fields	Colorado	Representative Annie Kuether	Kansas
Representative Jessie Danielson	Colorado	Representative Dennis "Boog" Highberger	Kansas
Representative Susan Lontine	Colorado	Representative Attica Woodson Scott	Kentucky
Representative Pete Lee	Colorado	Representative Mary Lou Marzian	Kentucky
Majority Leader KC Becker	Colorado	Representative Joni Jenkins	Kentucky
Representative Daneya Esgar	Colorado	Representative Matt Moonen	Maine
Representative Joseph Salazar	Colorado	Representative Margaret O'Neil	Maine
Representative Dave Young	Colorado	Senator Catherine Breen	Maine
Representative Roland Lemar	Connecticut	Representative Jay McCreight	Maine
Senator Gayle Slossberg	Connecticut	Senator Shenna Bellows	Maine
Majority Leader Bob Duff	Connecticut	Representative Rachel Talbot Ross	Maine
Senator Marilyn Moore	Connecticut	Representative Lois Reckitt	Maine
Senator Mae Flexer	Connecticut	Representative Dale Denno	Maine
Representative Lori Berman	Florida	Representative Richard Farnsworth	Maine
Senator Nan Orrock	Georgia	Senator Dave Miramant	Maine
Representative Renitta Shannon	Georgia	Senator Rebecca Millett	Maine
Representative Park Cannon	Georgia	Representative Michelle Dunphy	Maine
Representative Sheila Jones	Georgia	Representative Denise Tepler	Maine
Representative Della Au Belatti	Hawaii	Representative Deane Rykerson	Maine
Representative Roy Takumi	Hawaii	Representative Drew Gattine	Maine
Senator Rosalyn Baker	Hawaii	Speaker Sara Gideon	Maine
Senator Donna Mercado Kim	Hawaii	Representative Charlotte Warren	Maine
Representative Phylis King	Idaho	Delegate Robbyn Lewis	Maryland
Representative Carol Ammons	Illinois	Senator Richard Madaleno	Maryland
Representative Emanuel Welch	Illinois	Delegate Ariana Kelly	Maryland
Representative Theresa Mah	Illinois	Delegate Shelly Hettleman	Maryland
Representative Juliana Stratton	Illinois	Delegate David Moon	Maryland
Senator Omar Aquino	Illinois	Delegate Karen Lewis Young	Maryland
Senator Daniel Biss	Illinois	Representative David Linsky	Massachusetts
Representative Greg Harris	Illinois	Representative Jack Patrick Lewis	Massachusetts
Senator Patricia Van Pelt-Watkins	Illinois	Representative Natalie Higgins	Massachusetts
Senator Heather Steans	Illinois	Representative Patricia Haddad	Massachusetts
Senator Kwame Raoul	Illinois	Senator Mike Barrett	Massachusetts
Representative Sam Yingling	Illinois	Representative Alice Peisch	Massachusetts
Representative Litesa Wallace	Illinois	Senator David Knezek	Michigan
Senator Elgie Sims	Illinois	Minority Leader Jim Ananich	Michigan
Representative Anna Moeller	Illinois	Representative Pam Faris	Michigan



Representative Christine Greig	Michigan	Assemblymember Richard Gottfried	New York
Representative Winnie Brinks	Michigan	Senator Gustavo Rivera	New York
Representative Stephanie Chang	Michigan	Assemblymember Felix Ortiz	New York
Representative Erika Geiss	Michigan	Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins	New York
Senator Steve Bieda	Michigan	Senator Liz Krueger	New York
Senator Rebekah Warren	Michigan	Representative Mary Belk	North Carolina
Senator Curtis Hertel	Michigan	Representative Susan Fisher	North Carolina
Representative Robert Wittenberg	Michigan	Senator Jay Chaudhuri	North Carolina
Representative Kristy Pagan	Michigan	Representative Pricey Harrison	North Carolina
Representative Erin Maye Quade	Minnesota	Representative Graig Meyer	North Carolina
Representative Liz Olson	Minnesota	Senator Terry Van Duyn	North Carolina
Representative Jamie Becker-Finn	Minnesota	Senator Floyd McKissick	North Carolina
Senator D. Scott Dibble	Minnesota	Senator Valerie Foushee	North Carolina
Representative Ilhan Omar	Minnesota	Senator Mike Woodard	North Carolina
Representative Fue Lee	Minnesota	Representative Tavia Galonski	Ohio
Senator Sandra Pappas	Minnesota	Representative Adam Miller	Ohio
Representative Linda Slocum	Minnesota	Representative Thomas West	Ohio
Minority Leader Melissa Hortman	Minnesota	Representative Emilia Strong Sykes	Ohio
Representative Rena Moran	Minnesota	Representative Kent Smith	Ohio
Representative Mike Freiberg	Minnesota	Representative Stephanie Howse	Ohio
Representative Raymond Dehn	Minnesota	Representative Nickie Antonio	Ohio
Representative Dave Pinto	Minnesota	Representative Emily Virgin	Oklahoma
Representative Kathy Sykes	Mississippi	Representative Julie Fahey	Oregon
Representative Richard Brown	Missouri	Representative Pam Marsh	Oregon
Representative Stacey Newman	Missouri	Representative Karin Power	Oregon
Representative Ellie Hill-Smith	Montana	Majority Leader Jennifer Williamson	Oregon
Representative Jessica Karjala	Montana	Senator Laurie Monnes Anderson	Oregon
Senator Diane Sands	Montana	Senator Lew Frederick	Oregon
Assemblymember Steven Yeager	Nevada	Senator Sara Gelser	Oregon
Assemblymember Julia Ratti	Nevada	Representative Chris Rabb	Pennsylvania
Representative Kris Schultz	New Hampshire	Representative Mary Jo Daley	Pennsylvania
Representative Allison Nutting	New Hampshire	Representative Leanne Krueger-Braneky	Pennsylvania
Representative Debra Altschiller	New Hampshire	Senator Art Haywood	Pennsylvania
Representative Christy Bartlett	New Hampshire	Representative Steve McCarter	Pennsylvania
Representative Susan Almy	New Hampshire	Representative Dan Frankel	Pennsylvania
Representative Cindy Rosenwald	New Hampshire	Senator Dawn Euer	Rhode Island
Representative Sharon Nordgren	New Hampshire	Senator Gayle Goldin	Rhode Island
Representative Peter Leishman	New Hampshire	Representative Edith Ajello	Rhode Island
Representative Patricia Lovejoy	New Hampshire	Representative Teresa Tanzi	Rhode Island
Representative Daniel Eaton	New Hampshire	Senator Margie Bright Matthews	South Carolina
Representative Amanda Bouldin	New Hampshire	Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter	South Carolina
Representative Lee Oxenham	New Hampshire	Representative Susan Wismer	South Dakota
Senator David Watters	New Hampshire	Representative Steven McCleerey	South Dakota
Senator Martha Fuller Clark	New Hampshire	Senator Lee Harris	Tennessee
Representative Katherine Rogers	New Hampshire	Representative Jessica Farrar	Texas
Representative Renny Cushing	New Hampshire	Representative Mary Gonzalez	Texas
Representative Richard McNamara	New Hampshire	Representative Elizabeth Weight	Utah
Minority Leader Stephen Shurtleff	New Hampshire	Majority Leader Sarah Copeland-Hanzas	Vermont
Assemblymember Raj Mukherji	New Jersey	Representative Mike Mrowicki	Vermont
Assemblywoman Valerie Vainieri Huttle	New Jersey	Representative Robin Chesnut-Tangerman	Vermont
Majority Leader Loretta Weinberg	New Jersey	Representative Barbara Rachelson	Vermont
Representative Deborah Armstrong	New Mexico	Majority Leader Jill Krowinski	Vermont
Representative Elizabeth Thomson	New Mexico	Representative Ann Pugh	Vermont
Assemblywoman Christine Pellegrino	New York	Representative James McCullough	Vermont
Assemblymember JoAnne Simon	New York	Representative Maxine Grad	Vermont
Assemblymember Dan Quart	New York	Representative Valerie Stuart	Vermont
Assemblymember Deborah Glick	New York	Representative Tim Briglin	Vermont



Delegate Marcia Price	Virginia
Delegate Kaye Kory	Virginia
Delegate Jennifer Boysko	Virginia
Senator Jennifer McClellan	Virginia
Senator Barbara Favola	Virginia
Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn	Virginia
Senator Jeannie Darneille	Washington
Senator Lisa Wellman	Washington
Representative Tana Senn	Washington
Representative Joe Fitzgibbon	Washington
Senator Karen Keiser	Washington
Representative Derek Stanford	Washington
Majority Leader Sharon Nelson	Washington
Senator Kevin Ranker	Washington
Representative Christine Sinicki	Wisconsin
Representative Chris Taylor	Wisconsin
Representative Lisa Subeck	Wisconsin
Representative Melissa Sargent	Wisconsin
Senator Chris Larson	Wisconsin
Senator LaTonya Johnson	Wisconsin
Representative Terese Berceau	Wisconsin
Representative Debra Kolste	Wisconsin
Representative JoCasta Zamarripa	Wisconsin