

Targeted Restriction of Abortion Providers (TRAP) Across State Lines

[HB 540](#) - [Rep. Hannegan](#) (R-64, St. Charles)

*House Bill 540 requires any entity that merely **refers** a person for an abortion outside of Missouri to turn in an invasive, government-mandated checklist to the state.*

This bill will do nothing to improve patient health or safety. It is a targeted restriction of abortion providers (TRAP) law designed to impose Missouri's medically unnecessary restrictions beyond our state lines.

Abortion is one of the safest medical procedures performed in the United States. Data, including from the CDC, show that abortion has over a 99 percent safety record.

- Abortion has no impact on a woman's future fertility, and does no harm to women's mental health.
- Abortion providers, including those at Planned Parenthood, base their medical care on the expert recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.
- Studies show women in the U.S. experience major complications less than one percent of the time. In those rare cases when complications do occur, they are similar to those that may occur from miscarriage, which ob-gyns and other health care professionals treat every day.

The Supreme Court was clear: medically unnecessary restrictions that create an undue burden on patients are unconstitutional. Yet Missouri politicians are designing laws in a shameless attempt to circumvent that standard.

- House Bill 540 would essentially mandate that providers could not make out-of-state "referrals" without performing a medically inappropriate interrogation, filling out state-mandated paperwork and turning it into the state.
- The state will be collecting extensive personal data from people simply asking for information about abortion in other states.
- Providers risk criminal penalties if they miss any of the medically unnecessary steps mandated in HB 540.

Missouri politicians have passed so many restrictions that it's become very difficult for many people to access safe, legal abortion in the state.

- These policies are clearly designed to make abortion inaccessible for Missouri women.

- Missouri is so restrictive, many patients resort to crossing the state lines in order to access abortion and avoid delaying their care. This is an enormous burden for those patients -- which goes to show just how difficult it is in the state.

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. 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. 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.