

## Abortion Ban

[SB 345](#) - [Sen. Koenig](#) (R-15, Manchester)

*This extreme measure would ban safe, legal abortion in Missouri, endanger the health of pregnant people, and subject doctors to criminal penalties for providing health care.*

### **Senate Bill 345 would make abortion illegal in nearly all circumstances in our state.**

This measure would make abortion a felony in all cases unless the pregnant person's life is at risk. There are no exceptions for rape or incest. There are no exceptions for the pregnant person's health. Nor are there exceptions for serious fetal diagnosis or cases where the fetus is not viable. Make no mistake: this legislation is designed specifically to spark a court case to challenge *Roe v. Wade*.

### **As a health care provider, Planned Parenthood believes every pregnant person must be able to access the reproductive health care they need without interference from politicians.**

- Abortion is health care. The decision to have an abortion is deeply personal and often complex. It is a decision that belongs to the pregnant person in consultation with their family, their faith, and their doctor – *not politicians*.
- Leading medical organizations, including the American Medical Association and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, oppose bans like SB 345 because they endanger pregnant people and interfere in the doctor-patient relationship.

### **Banning abortion threatens the health and safety of pregnant people.**

- Banning abortion and criminalizing doctors does not end abortion; it only ends access to safe, legal abortion, putting pregnant people and their families at risk.
- Senate Bill 345 prevents doctors from giving their patients the best health care possible in every situation. Because the only exception is for a medical emergency, this bill could prevent a doctor from providing needed care to a pregnant person if that care might endanger an ongoing pregnancy.

### **Senate Bill 345's abortion ban is unconstitutional.**

- The U.S. Supreme Court has consistently held for more than 40 years that states may not ban abortion prior to viability. Viability is determined on a case-by-case basis, but it is not before 24 weeks.
- Senate Bill 345 is an effort by extreme anti-abortion lawmakers to win a political race to challenge *Roe v. Wade* at the U.S. Supreme Court.

**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, evidence-based policies that 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.