

Extreme, Unconstitutional Abortion Bans

[Senate Committee Substitute for SB 279](#) - [Sen. Onder](#) (R-2, St. Charles)
[Senate Committee Substitute for HB 126](#) - [Rep. Schroer](#) (R-107, St. Charles)

These extreme, unconstitutional bills aim to ban safe, legal abortion in Missouri. Anti-abortion politicians are running in a political race to overturn Roe v. Wade at the U.S. Supreme Court.

Senate Bill 279 and House Bill 126 are extreme, unconstitutional measures pushed by politicians who are running in a political race to ban abortion by getting the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn Roe. They are de facto total bans on safe, legal abortion in Missouri. They include:

- A complete ban on abortion that criminalizes doctors and makes abortion a felony if the U.S. Supreme Court guts or overturns *Roe v. Wade*;
- A ban on abortion as soon as a fetal heart tone is detected, which can happen as early as six weeks – *before many people even know they are pregnant*; and
- A ban on abortion later in pregnancy, with no exceptions for rape, incest, or serious fetal diagnosis.

Missouri voters do not want these extreme abortion bans. Instead of obsessing about banning abortion, our lawmakers should focus on policies that actually improve Missourians' health and lives.

- A majority of Missourians – 64% in an October 2018 poll – support *Roe v. Wade* and do not want politicians interfering in the doctor-patient relationship.
- Instead of obsessing over abortion and trying to ban a safe, legal medical procedure, lawmakers should focus on measures that actually improve Missourians' health.
- This is a question of priorities. Missouri's maternal mortality rate is rising. Pockets of our state have infant mortality rates higher than some developing countries. And our state is experiencing an outbreak of syphilis. Missourians support policies that increase access to health care and sex education as common sense solutions.

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.

- Abortion is a deeply personal decision that belongs to a woman in consultation with her family, her doctor, and her faith – not politicians.

- This bill takes decision-making away from a woman and her trusted medical providers and puts it in the hands of politicians. It does **nothing** to protect a woman's health.
- Leading medical experts, including the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), oppose these laws because they bar physicians from giving their patients the best health care possible in every situation.

SB 279 and HB 126 threaten the health and safety of women and all pregnant people.

- As a health care provider, Planned Parenthood has seen what happens when politicians interfere in these deeply personal medical decisions and tie doctors' hands. In states that have passed bans on abortion later in pregnancy, some women and their families have been put into unimaginable situations – needing to end a pregnancy for serious medical reasons, but unable to do so.
- SB 279 and HB 126 ban abortion even in the case of a serious fetal diagnosis. These are incredibly difficult decisions and they cannot be clumped into one category. Serious fetal anomalies vary, and a pregnant person must be able to make a decision based on their own specific situation in consultation with their family, their faith, and their doctor – *not* politicians.

These bans on safe, legal abortion are unconstitutional.

- The U.S. Supreme Court has consistently held for more than 40 years that a state may not ban abortion prior to viability.
- The Court has been clear that states may not draw a line at a particular gestational age to establish fetal viability; the determination of viability must be left to the physician's judgment.
- Similar bans in other states have been blocked by the courts and resulted in lawsuits that cost taxpayer dollars.