

Abortion Ban

[HB 126](#) - [Rep. Schroer](#) (R-107, O'Fallon)

This extreme, unconstitutional bill bans abortion in an attempt to put Missouri at the front of a political race to overturn Roe v. Wade at the U.S. Supreme Court.

House Bill 126 is an extreme, unconstitutional measure pushed by politicians who are running in a political race to overturn Roe at the Supreme Court. It is a de facto total ban on safe, legal abortion in Missouri:

- 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.

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 doctor 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.

House Bill 126 threatens 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.
- HB 126 bans 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 costly lawsuits.

House Bill 126 endangers pregnant teens by creating more medically unnecessary barriers to safe, legal abortion.

- Current Missouri law already requires a pregnant teen under the age of 18 to get consent from one parent. HB 126 would require notification of the second custodial parent, too.
- We all want our teens to be safe. Planned Parenthood strongly encourages all teens to talk with their parents about reproductive health, including abortion. **But the reality is that politicians cannot legislate healthy families.** For teens who live in an abusive environment or are pregnant as a result of rape or incest, parental involvement may not be a safe option.
- The American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Public Health Association oppose bills like HB 126. Research shows these laws do not increase parental involvement and do not foster healthy family communication; in fact, these laws can endanger pregnant teens' health and safety by delaying access to services and even forcing a teen to take measures into their own hands.

House Bill 126 forces a doctor who shares the name, address, phone number or website of an out-of-state abortion provider with any pregnant person to also offer Missouri's medically inaccurate, government-scripted "informed consent" materials.

- Patients deserve medically accurate information and the support they need to make a carefully considered decision about their pregnancy – but HB 126 is designed to shame a pregnant person considering abortion into changing their mind.
- Forcing doctors to provide medically inaccurate information violates medical ethics and dismisses the patient's right to truthful information from their doctor.
- Providers must either give the information in person or via overnight mail. This risks violating a patient's privacy and the confidentiality of their medical care, which is especially dangerous for a person in an abusive relationship.

This is a question of priorities. Instead of obsessing over abortion and trying to ban a safe, legal medical procedure, lawmakers should focus on measures that actually improve Missourians' health.

- Missouri's maternal mortality rate is rising. Pockets of our state have infant mortality rates higher than some developing countries. Banning abortion does **nothing** to improve these health outcomes.
- Missouri is experiencing an outbreak of syphilis in communities across the state, with an increase of more than 200% over the past few years. Missourians are tired of politicians obsessing over abortion instead of addressing real threats to Missourians' health.