



# **Missouri Sexual and Reproductive Health Update**



# The Texas Effect

On September 1, 2021 TX SB 8 went into effect banning abortion around six weeks of pregnancy and creating a legal right for “abortion bounty hunters” to sue anyone who “aids or abets” someone in accessing an abortion in violation of the law.

This law incentivizes private citizens to report any people they believe helped someone access abortion care with a \$10,000 bounty.

On Monday November 1, patients and providers from Texas had their day in court.

**Extremists in the Missouri legislature have already pledged to introduce a TX SB 8 copycat bill.**



# Public Opinion

In a Navigator poll in September 2021, 58% of Americans oppose SB8 when it is described as the “the nation’s most restrictive abortion law” and 54% oppose it when described as a ban on “most abortions after six weeks of pregnancy.”

A Monmouth poll in September 2021 found that seven in ten Americans (70%) disapprove of allowing private citizens to use lawsuits to enforce the Texas law and 8 in 10 Americans (81%) disapprove of giving \$10,000 to private citizens.

A majority of the public (54%) disagrees with the Supreme Court allowing the Texas law to go into effect.

The Monmouth poll finds favorable views of the Supreme Court have declined. Currently, 42% approve and 45% disapprove of the job the Court is doing, compared to 2016 when 49% approved and 33% disapproved.

# Patient Impact



Abortion in TX fell **50% in 30** days after ban implemented

Most impacted: people of color, people who use Medicaid, people who live in rural areas, people in the LGBTQ+ community, and more

**1,082% increase** in patients with TX zip codes seeking abortion at PP centers outside TX, compared to September 2020 and 2019

Patients are scared. Patients are confused. Patients are being forced to travel thousands of miles across state lines or **carry pregnancies against their will**

This law sows **chaos and confusion** and interferes with health care providers' ability to deliver safe, evidence-based care to patients at all times.

Patients from surrounding states like Oklahoma, New Mexico and Colorado are being **forced to wait longer or travel out of those states** as providers struggle to serve the increased volume of TX patients

# Missouri's new “defund” effort through rule changes

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- The new rule is discriminatory and singles out patients who rely on Planned Parenthood.
- Missouri politicians are attempting to apply conditions and scrutiny no other qualified Medicaid provider in Missouri will have to face.
- Missouri politicians tried it once and they're trying it again — to weaponize a regulatory scheme *they set up* in order to dismantle access to basic health care. The conflation of RHS and PPSLRSWMO is intentional.
- It's no coincidence this attack comes at the moment 275,000 more Missourians have become eligible for Medicaid, an expansion of health care access these same politicians fought to stop.
- Singling out Planned Parenthood is a violation of Medicaid law and could jeopardize the state's entire Medicaid program, which would leave many patients scrambling to find available and qualified Medicaid providers.

# Research Informed Approach to Abortion Messaging



## SHARED VALUES

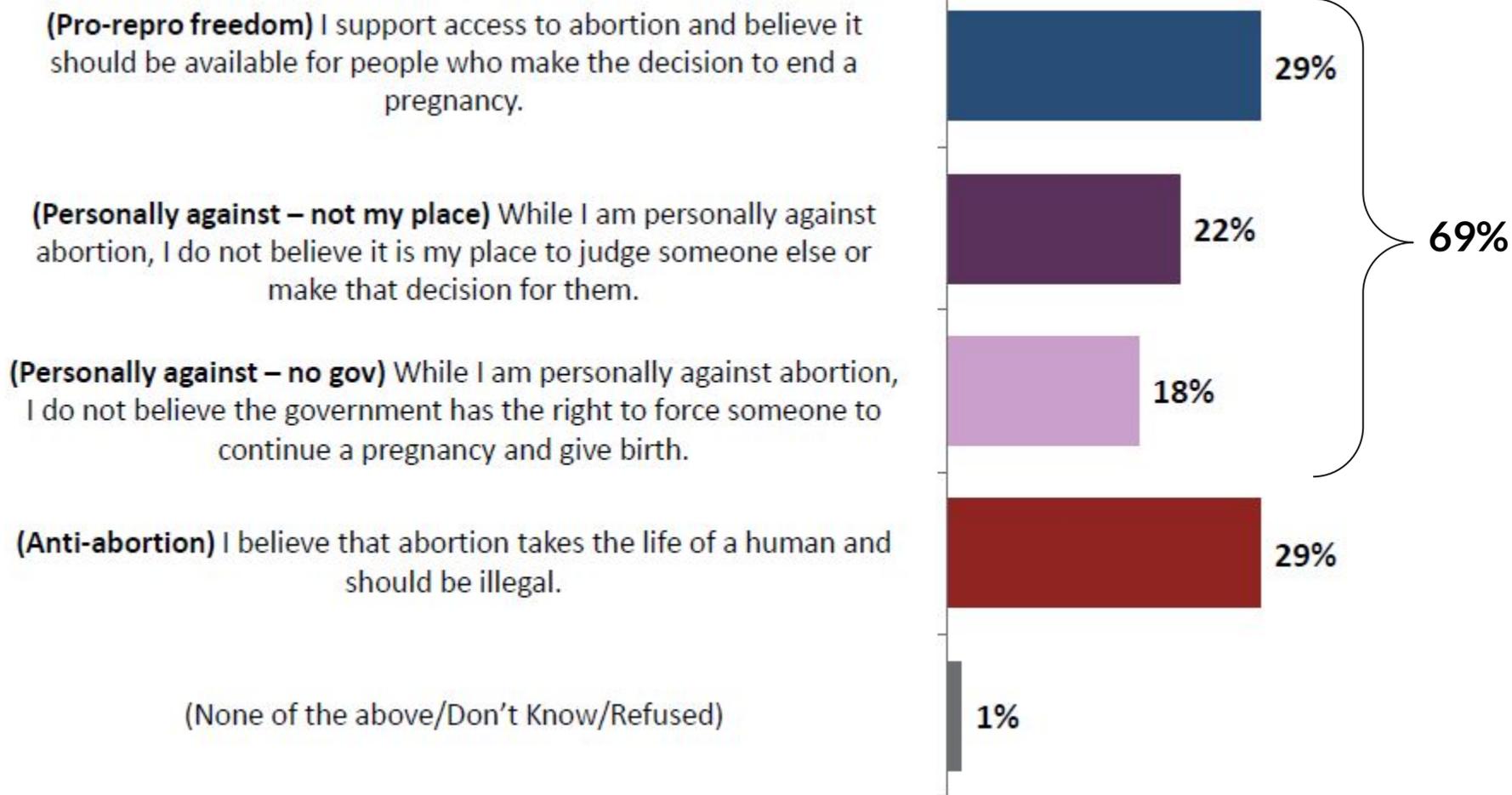
When it comes to expressing positive values for abortion, the following deeply held core values drive opinion about abortion across race and political beliefs.



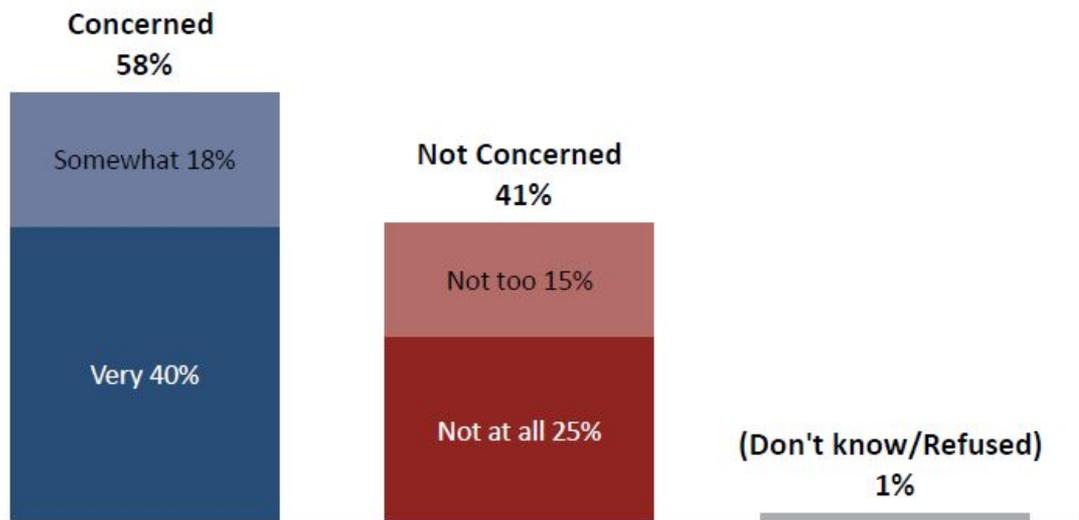
# Labels Don't Work



*Note: "No response" results are not shown*



*A majority say they are concerned about abortion laws, especially Democrats.*



	Con.	Not Con.	Net Concern
Overall	58%	41%	+18
Kansas City (27%)	59%	39%	+21
Columbia/North Central (10%)	59%	38%	+21
St. Louis (45%)	62%	37%	+24
Springfield (18%)	47%	53%	-5
Male: White (37%)	52%	48%	+4
Female: White (43%)	68%	31%	+37
People of Color (10%)	66%	33%	+33
Refused Ethnicity (10%)	32%	65%	-33
Democrat: 18-49 (17%)	88%	8%	+80
Democrat: 50+ (21%)	96%	4%	+93
Republican: 18-49 (17%)	20%	80%	-60
Republican: 50+ (28%)	38%	60%	-22
Independent/Other: 18-49 (9%)	49%	51%	-2
Independent/Other: 50+ (8%)	54%	43%	+11
Mainline Christian (17%)	58%	41%	+17
Evangelical Christian (25%)	32%	67%	-35
Roman Catholic (14%)	66%	34%	+33
Other Religion (9%)	70%	29%	+41
No Religion/Refused (35%)	71%	27%	+43

## **THE PROBLEMS**

Lawmakers have passed more than 450 unnecessary abortion restrictions in the past 10 years.

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Forcing someone to continue a pregnancy against their will is a violation of their rights and their basic humanity.

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These restrictions were designed to control, dehumanize, and criminalize women.

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## **THE SOLUTION**

We need to ensure that all people have access to the reproductive health care that they need, including access to abortion.

**Provide specific examples, such as:**

- 1) Forcing someone to drive hundreds of miles because of clinic shut-down laws;
- 2) The additional cost of hotels, food, time away from work, and childcare — especially for multiple, medically unnecessary visits.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listing details or reasons why a woman is having an abortion (e.g. rape, incest, etc)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mention decision-making process: “thinking through the decision;” “talking it over with loved ones.” Remind audiences that “the person has made their decision”</li> <li>• We trust people to know what they need. People come to this decision with their families, faith, and future in mind</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listing reasons a person is seeking an abortion or exceptions, such as in cases of rape or incest, increases judgment and can lead to support for restrictions.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We can't go back to pre-Roe days</li> <li>• If Roe is overturned, women will die from back alley abortions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We all want to be able to live a safe and healthy life and be free to define our own path</li> <li>• Lawmakers have passed more than 450 unnecessary abortion restrictions in the past 10 years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• So much has changed since 1973, including internet access to medication abortion. Threats of women dying now are less believable and not helpful. Communicate positive values to build support for abortion that is safe, affordable, and available</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talking about codifying Roe</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abortion must not only be legal, but also available and affordable for all people.</li> <li>• Legal abortion is the floor, not the ceiling.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Messages should highlight the need to do more than uphold Roe because despite abortion being legal, many people, especially Black, Indigenous people and other people of color, face barriers accessing abortion.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No one wants to have an abortion</li> <li>• This is a devastating decision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We don't know every person's circumstances</li> <li>• This is a deeply personal decision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convey seriousness without stigma or assuming anything about the feelings of the person having the abortion.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The government shouldn't interfere/ should stay out of our personal decisions</li> <li>• Demonizing government's role</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Some lawmakers” or special interest groups want to impose their values on others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The government/Congress has a role in ensuring access to a full range of healthcare, including abortion care.</li> </ul>