

Abortion Ban

[HB 771](#) - [Rep. Dogan](#) (R-98, Ballwin)

House Bill 771 is an attempt to ban abortion in Missouri. It co-opts very real concerns about discrimination on the basis of race, sex, and ability to restrict access to safe and legal abortion. This bill does nothing to support people who face discrimination, including women of color and people with disabilities and their families.

This is another unconstitutional effort by politicians to ban abortion in our state. House Bill 771 would ban abortions based on sex, race, or prenatal testing that show a Down syndrome diagnosis, and create new criminal penalties for physicians who provide abortion. Anti-reproductive health politicians continue to seek different ways to intervene in personal, private decisions by playing politics with women's health.

Abortion is a deeply personal decision that must be left to a woman in consultation with her family, her faith, and her doctor. This bill inserts the state into the exam room in an effort to restrict access to abortion. It forces physicians to act as government agents, shaming women into justifying their decision to have a safe and legal medical procedure.

Banning abortion will not make Missouri a better place for people who face sex and race discrimination. Efforts to ban abortion based on race or sex are fueled by racist stereotypes. Supporters of sex-selective abortion bans claim they are necessary because of Asians who migrate to the U.S. and bring "backward" values with them. This stereotype about the values of the Asian-American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community is not only ugly—it's dangerous. These bans could lead to AAPI patients being singled out for special questioning and even being denied care.

Banning abortion will not make Missouri a better place for people with Down syndrome. Instead, this is about politics and taking away women's ability to make personal, private, and often complicated decisions. This bill does nothing to address the serious underlying concerns about discrimination against people with disabilities. This policy is not supported by the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS). Organizations like NDSS focus on educating women and their families about Down syndrome when they undergo prenatal genetic testing. This bill does not do that.

Parents of children with Down syndrome have spoken out in various states against efforts to ban abortions based Down syndrome. These parents have pointed out that the bills are not about helping families and children affected by disabilities, but are instead using those children as a wedge issue in their efforts to ban abortion altogether.



Planned Parenthood Advocates in Missouri

House Bill 771 would threaten women’s health and lives by restricting safe, legal abortion.

This bill won’t reduce the need for abortion in our communities. Rather, it will eliminate access to safe, qualified providers, forcing pregnant people to travel out of state or take measures into their own hands.

Instead of restricting access to safe, legal abortion, lawmakers should focus on measures that will support all people who face discrimination, especially people of color and people with disabilities and their families. Our Legislature should use the money it would have to spend defending this unconstitutional law in court to improve maternal and child health outcomes and to better fund programs like First Steps that support children with disabilities and their families. Expanding Medicaid would ensure increased access to health care for all low-income Missourians, including people of color and people with disabilities.