

# THE NETWORK NEWSLETTER

Together advancing policies and implementing public health initiatives

[smfmadvocates.org](http://smfmadvocates.org)

## A Health Policy and Advocacy Update - *December 2024*

Thank you for your participation in the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine's **State Liaison Network** (SLN). Our quarterly newsletter brings you the latest advocacy, policy, and public health updates, happenings, and actions from the Society.

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## HRSA JOB OPPORTUNITY

The **Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Maternal and Child Health Bureau** is recruiting for a new [Chief Medical Officer](#). This position is based in Rockville, Maryland at HRSA headquarters and will serve in the Office of the Associate Administrator.

Consider applying to help guide HRSA's critical portfolio of maternal and child health programs. **Applications are due on January 6, 2025.**

## STATE LIAISONS IN ACTION



- [California AB.1936](#): requires health care service plans and insurers to develop maternal mental health programs, including at least one mental health screening during pregnancy and one within the first six weeks postpartum, and additional screenings as necessary determined by the treating provider
- [California AB.2319](#): requires hospitals, alternative birthing centers, and primary care clinics to implement evidence-based implicit bias training for all healthcare providers who provide perinatal care



- [Delaware HB.362](#): requires all health insurance policies in Delaware to provide coverage for doula services
- [New Jersey S.912](#): requires healthcare professionals to work with patients to develop personalized postpartum care plans
- [New York A.8168](#): expands Medicaid coverage to include remote ultrasound scans and remote fetal non-stress tests
- [Pennsylvania HB.1608](#): establishes the Doula Advisory Board, which will review best practices for doula services, participation in the Medical Assistance Program, and how to address disparities in maternal health services.
- [Pennsylvania HB.2127](#): requires hospitals, birth centers, physicians, and midwives to offer resources about perinatal and postpartum mood and anxiety disorders (PMAD) to patients; requires the Department of Health to maintain and update said resources and launch a public awareness campaign about PMAD

### **Celebrating abortion care wins**

- Seven states passed ballot measures protecting access to abortion care: Arizona, Colorado, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, and New York.
- Delaware passed [SB.301](#), which requires all Delaware universities with student health centers to provide access to medication abortion and emergency contraception
- In November, a [judge in Wyoming struck down the state's bans on abortion care](#). The decision has been appealed and will be heard by the state's Supreme Court in 2025.

## Outcome of Abortion-Related State Constitutional Amendment Measures as of November 6, 2024

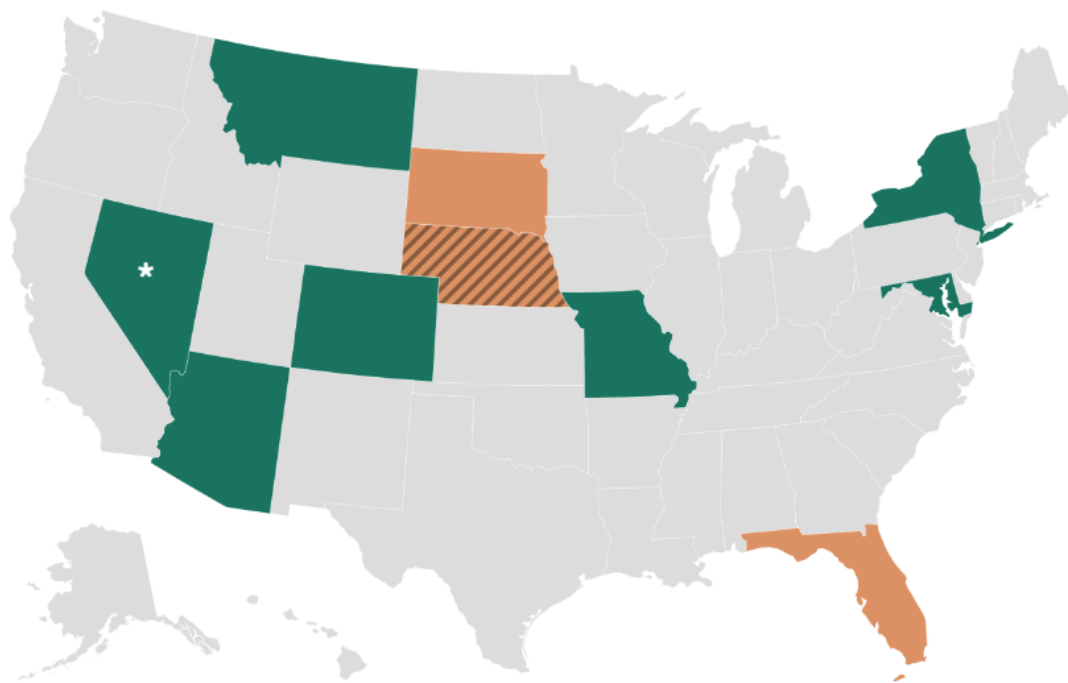
Protect Abortion Rights (10 state)

Curtail Abortion Rights (1 state)

■ Passed (7 states)

🗳️ Passed (1 state, Nebraska)

■ Failed (3 states, including Nebraska)



Note:  
There were two proposed measures in Nebraska. See table below for details and status.

\*Ballot measures have to pass in two successive *general elections* in Nevada. This measure will have to appear on the ballot again in the *next general election* before the proposed amendment is added to the Nevada constitution

Source: KFF analysis of introduced state legislation and ballot measures • [Get the data](#) • [Download PNG](#)

KFF

### Monitoring abortion care bans and restrictions

- Nebraska passed a ballot measure enshrining a ban on abortion care in the second and third trimesters, while Florida and South Dakota failed to pass ballot measures that would have protected access to abortion care.
- Earlier this month, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals [allowed Idaho to enforce its "abortion trafficking" law](#), reversing the injunction from last year.

As of December 18, 2024, 20 states have abortion bans up to 20 weeks gestation currently or soon to be in effect: **Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and West Virginia.**

13 of these states (**Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia**) have total bans.

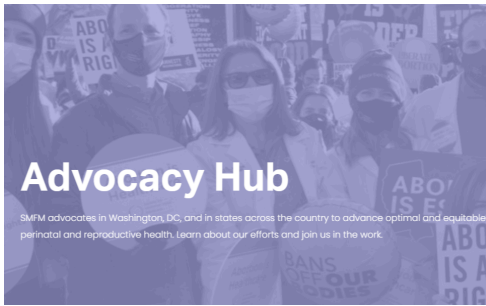
For up to date information on state abortion policies, see resources from [Abortion Finder](#), [Guttmacher Institute](#) and the [New York Times](#). You can also track pending state legislation alongside SMFM staff on our [Advocacy Hub](#).

## TAKE ACTION

### Track Policies and Submit a Request for Advocacy Support

Get more involved in advocacy in your state by [tracking policies alongside SMFM staff](#) and using our [Request Support form](#) to get assistance from Advocacy staff.

## Advocacy Hub



Don't forget to utilize SMFM's [Advocacy Hub](#)! This is your one-stop shop for all things advocacy, providing all the information you need about SMFM's advocacy priorities, activities and updates, and more. The Hub includes a state bill tracker that can help you monitor what is being proposed in your state, as well as an easy-to-use portal for you to request SMFM engagement and support for your advocacy efforts. You can also send your fellow SMFM members here to sign up for the [State Liaison Network](#).

## Center for Reproductive Rights – 2024 State Legislative Wrap-Up

During 2024, the Center for Reproductive Rights tracked almost 2,000 pieces of reproductive rights legislation across 50 states, and Washington, D.C. [This report](#) highlights 2024 legislative trends impacting access to abortion care, assisted reproduction, and maternal health care.

## Center on Poverty and Inequality, Georgetown Law – Nowhere to Turn: State Abortion Bans and the Failure to Support Women with Public Benefits

Since the overturning of *Roe vs. Wade* in 2022, many low-income women have nowhere to turn: they face the economic repercussions of being denied abortion care and lack access to the support they need to care for a growing family. [This brief](#) looks at how abortion bans and insufficient public benefits at the state level affect women and families. It finds that states with abortion bans often do not provide enough supportive resources for growing families, like health care, food assistance, and cash support. The brief also offers federal policy recommendations to help families meet their everyday needs—no matter what state they live in.

## Guttmacher Institute – State Policy Trends 2024

In [this report](#), Guttmacher provides a state trends analysis that examines state policies related to reproductive health. The report also includes statements from partner organizations across the United States who are working to safeguard reproductive health and rights. Their perspectives highlight how state policies impact grassroots organizations and the communities they serve.

## Pregnancy Justice – Pregnancy as a Crime: A Preliminary Report on the First Year After *Dobbs*

The [report](#) *Pregnancy as a Crime: A Preliminary Report on the First Year After Dobbs* documents that in the first year after the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision, at least 210 pregnant people faced criminal charges for conduct associated with their pregnancy, abortion, pregnancy loss, or birth.

The report finds that in the one-year period from June 24, 2022 to June 23, 2023, there was the highest number of pregnancy-related prosecutions documented in a single year.

## National Institute for Reproductive Health – Role of Government in Pregnancy

The National Institute for Reproductive Health, in partnership with Perry Udem and Lake Research, presents a novel approach to abortion polling research on the role of government. For the first time post-*Dobbs*, [this study](#) provides an in-depth look into current perceptions and preferences about the role of government in abortion – including abortion later in pregnancy. This research – including qualitative and quantitative research – examined whether and why Americans' views on the role of government in pregnancy decisions have shifted since *Roe* was overturned, with explicit exploration around abortion later in pregnancy.

## National Partnership for Women and Families – Threats on All Fronts: December 2024

[This report](#) analyzes how well states are doing to support women's freedom to make decisions about their lives and care for themselves and those they love. Since *Roe v. Wade* was overturned, the states that have enacted restrictive abortion bans are the very same states that have also made the least progress on other policies vital for maternal health, and on economic policies such as paid family leave that enable people to get timely health care and provide for their families. Conversely, states that are protective of abortion access tend also to have other policies that are supportive of women and families.

### WHAT WE'RE READING

["Ken Paxton sues New York doctor accused of prescribing abortion pills to Texas woman,"](#) *Texas Tribune*

["The Next Abortion Battlefield,"](#) *The Atlantic*

["Post- \*Dobbs\* Abortion Restrictions and the Families They Leave Behind,"](#) *American Journal of Public Health*

["Study finds more TV depictions of abortion this year — but they're still mostly getting it wrong,"](#) *NPR*

["The Truce Over Interstate Abortion Fights Is About to Come to a Bitter End,"](#) *Slate*

["What It Really Means to Get an Abortion After 'Fetal Viability,'"](#) *TIME*

["What's Next for State Abortion Ballot Initiatives?"](#) *KFF*

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