

## **Eliminating Our Reproductive Freedom**

**Missouri Republicans introduced legislation to reinstate the abortion ban, overturning the will of the people.** After Missouri voters approved Amendment 3, overturning the state's abortion ban, Missouri Republicans introduced SJR 33/HJR 54 that would ask voters to repeal Amendment 3 to ban all abortions except for in the cases of rape, incest or medical emergency. According to STLPR, “The measure would allow for damages, including the suspension or revocation of medical licenses of someone who 'intentionally or negligently causes damage to another person relating to the provision of reproductive health care or the performance or inducement of an abortion.’” The outlet also explains, “A judge ruled in December that many of Missouri’s anti-abortion laws were now unconstitutional due to Amendment 3. However, Jackson County Circuit Court Judge Jerri Zhang left some requirements for clinics that perform abortions in place. Those requirements, according to Planned Parenthood, mean abortions still can’t take place legally in Missouri. Attorneys for Planned Parenthood asked Zhang to reconsider her ruling.” If passed, the amendment would be added to the 2026 ballot, unless the Governor calls for a special election. The Senate version passed out of the Families, Seniors and Health Committee in March, and the House version passed out of the Rules Committee in April. [STLPR, [2/5/2025](#); KOMU, [2/4/2025](#)]

**In 2024, MAGA Republicans blocked adding rape and incest exemptions to Missouri’s abortion ban claiming that while rape is “mentally taxing...God does not make mistakes.”** According to the Missouri Independent, “Republicans thwarted an effort to add rape and incest exceptions to Missouri’s near-total abortion ban on Wednesday but were unable to push a bill to bar Planned Parenthood from receiving Medicaid reimbursements to a vote. Under Missouri law, abortion is illegal except in cases of a medical emergency when ‘a delay will create a serious risk of substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function.’ While rape would be ‘mentally taxing’ for anyone, said Republican state Sen. Sandy Crawford, it doesn’t justify an abortion. ‘God is perfect’ she said. ‘God does not make mistakes. And for some reason he allows that to happen. Bad things happen.’” [Missouri Independent, [2/8/2024](#)]

**Even with Missouri having some of the most restrictive laws in the United States, MAGA Republicans in Missouri pushed legislation furthering abortion restrictions in Missouri.** MAGA Republicans proposed legislation in 2024 that would have made it illegal for employers to assist employees in getting abortions. Those who did so would no longer have been able to be awarded grants, tax credits, or other financial benefits from the state. SB 1077 sought to impose stringent regulations on the relationship between employers and their employees regarding reproductive healthcare choices. [[SB 1077](#), Second Read and Referred S Health and Welfare Committee, 1/25/2024; KCUR, [1/7/2024](#)]

**Fearing the restoration of abortion rights in Missouri, MAGA Republicans sought to prohibit Missourians from amending the state constitution by majority vote.** MAGA Republicans worried that a signature campaign would succeed in putting an initiative on the statewide ballot to restore abortion rights have sought to increase the majority required, currently 50%, or add a

requirement that the majority be achieved in both rural and urban areas. [Missouri Independent, [1/19/24](#)]

**MAGA Republicans proposed requiring women seeking abortions to obtain written consent from the father, except in cases of "legitimate rape;" later proposed banning abortion even in cases of rape and incest.** In 2014, a bill pushed by a MAGA Republican required women seeking abortions to get permission from the fetus's father, except in cases of incest or "legitimate rape." Senator Rick Brattin said, "Just like any rape, you have to report it, and you have to prove it. So you couldn't just go and say, 'Oh yeah, I was raped' and get an abortion. It has to be a legitimate rape." In 2022, as a candidate for Congress, Brattin proposed banning abortion in all circumstances, even in cases of rape and incest. He said he would provide an exception only for saving the life of the mother. [Courthouse News Service, [12/23/14](#); Columbia Missourian, [7/22/22](#)]

**MAGA Republicans filed a lawsuit challenging the cost estimate of a Missouri abortion-rights amendment.** According to the Missouri Independent, the lawsuit "Challenging Republican state Auditor Scott Fitzpatrick's conclusion that a proposed constitutional amendment rolling back Missouri's abortion ban would have no cost to state government if it were approved by voters next year." The plaintiffs support Attorney General Andrew Bailey's argument that legalizing abortion will cost the state billions of dollars. In a statement released after filing the lawsuit, Kelly, Coleman, and Forck said the legal challenge is "not about individual officeholders, but about the omission of the true fiscal costs to individual Missourians with measures that could imperil their financial futures, and cost the state billions of dollars in health care funding." [Missouri Independent, [8/7/2023](#)]

**MAGA Republicans introduced amendments that would let private citizens sue anyone they suspect of helping a Missouri resident get an abortion in another state.** Modeled after controversial Texas SB 8, Senator Mary Elizabeth Coleman added amendments to HB 2012 to allow private citizens to sue anyone who helps a Missouri resident obtain an abortion out of state. Coleman told The Washington Post, "'If your neighboring state doesn't have pro-life protections, it minimizes the ability to protect the unborn in your state,' said Coleman, who said she's been trying to figure out how to crack down on out-of-state abortions since Planned Parenthood opened an abortion clinic on the Illinois-Missouri border in 2019.... 'It's just tragic,' she said of the number of Missouri residents who get abortions in Illinois. 'It feels very sad and heavy.'" Abortion rights advocates say the measure is unconstitutional because it would effectively allow states to enact laws beyond their jurisdictions. The bill died in the House. [[HB 2012](#), died in House, 3/29/2022; Washington Post, [3/8/2022](#)]