

[Let's Talk About the Texas Abortion Ban]



VIDEO DISCUSSION GUIDE



Thanks for hosting or joining a Common Concerns conversation about the Texas abortion ban.

At the beginning of your conversation, you'll watch a video from Texas Impact's series Let's Talk About the Texas Abortion Ban.

After you watch the video as a group, you can discuss the video and consider taking action, individually or together, if that seems appropriate. This discussion guide includes questions you can use to spark your conversation. It also includes a table comparing policies on specific abortion issues across the states.

If you have not already done so, you can download the Common Concerns Next Steps toolkit for ideas about kinds of actions you can take and how to get started.

You can find all the videos in the Let's Talk About the Texas Abortion Ban series on Texas Impact's YouTube channel and on our website at

<https://txfaith.org/lets-talk-videos>

After your discussion, please take a minute to fill out a quick survey using the QR below:



Episodes

Understanding the Impact

This video features statements from Texas doctors, lawyers, patients, and policymakers about the thinking behind Texas' near-total abortion ban and the impacts of the ban since 2022.

Getting Clear on the Law

This video offers a comprehensive explanation of Texas' near-total abortion ban, including a clear description of the legal framework and background on the history of abortion regulation.

Lethal Fetal Abnormalities

This video and a shorter version of it feature doctors and patients whose fetuses had lethal abnormalities. Texas does not allow termination of pregnancies where the fetus will not survive after birth.

Risks to the Mother's Life & Health

In this video, obstetrician-gynecologists from across the state discuss the impacts of Texas' extreme abortion ban on their ability to care for pregnant patients with complex or dangerous pregnancies.

Faith & Conscience

This video features reflections from legislators, doctors, and patients on the role faith and conscience play in views and decisions regarding abortion.

General Questions

- 1 How did you feel after watching the video? What is the first thought that popped into your head when it ended?
- 2 What is the primary message of the video? Do you agree or disagree with it?
- 3 Did you learn anything from this video or gain new insight? Discuss
- 4 Was there anything in the video you didn't understand?
- 5 Did any of the speakers describe circumstances that remind you of something that has occurred in your own life or that you have seen occur in the lives of others?
- 6 Did you find the speakers believable? Did you find them reasonable, or did you find yourself questioning their judgment or motives at points?
- 7 Did you have particular respect or empathy for any of the speakers in this video? Who was it and why?
- 8 Talk about any specific comments any of the speakers made that you found especially impactful—in either a positive or negative way.
- 9 If you had a chance to ask one of the speakers in this video a question, what would it be?
- 10 What feelings or perspectives would you most want to share with any of the speakers in the video?
- 11 If you could respond to the concerns or fears of any of the speakers in the video, what would you say and why?

General Questions

- 12 Did any of the speakers make you angry? Discuss why.
- 13 Were there any points of view not represented by the speakers that you wonder about? What impact would including those points of view have on your feelings about the video?
- 14 In what ways are the characteristics, perspectives, or experiences of any of the speakers like your own or those of someone you know?
- 15 Did the video present a clear picture of a problem and a solution? If so, identify the problem and the solution as the speakers presented it.
- 16 If you felt the video presented a problem but no solution, did you form ideas about what a solution might be? Did the video leave you feeling that a solution is possible?
- 17 What did you learn from this film that you wish everyone knew? What would change if everyone knew it?
- 18 If you could require one person (or one group) to view this film, who would it be? What do you hope their main takeaway would be?
- 19 Did any of the speakers describe circumstances that remind you of something that has occurred in your own life or that you have seen occur in the lives of others?
- 20 This video is important because _____.
- 21 Complete this sentence: I am inspired by this film (or discussion) to _____.

Video-Specific Questions

Understanding the Impact

How well are Texas abortion laws coordinated with other aspects of medical regulation?

Based on the doctors' comments, do Texas abortion laws impact some groups of women more than others?

What comments from the patients were the most compelling for you?

Getting Clear on the Law

Was there information in the video that surprised you?

How have Texas' abortion laws evolved?

If you were in a position to change Texas abortion laws, what changes, if any would you make based on the information in the video?

Lethal Fetal Anomalies

Have you or someone you know ever had an experience like the patients in the video?

How would you counsel your friend or family member if they were experiencing the issues the patients in the video describe?

Do you think there are times when it is justifiable to sacrifice the life of the pregnant patient for a fetus that will die before or at birth?

Risks to the Mother

Have you had conversations with family members, friends, your faith community about options pregnant patients have in Texas? If so, what have those conversations been like?

If you or someone close to you is able to become pregnant, is there a plan in place for if they get pregnant and have a complication where abortion is indicated?

Faith & Conscience

How did the speakers' statements of faith land for you?

Have you had a strongly held view that changed over the course of time because of your lived experiences?

How might faith communities strengthen their support for pregnant patients facing difficult pregnancies?

ABORTION POLICY ACROSS STATE LINES

Learn more about your state here: states.guttmacher.org/policies

	Life and Health of the Mother	Gestational Duration	Lethal Fetal Abnormality	Exceptions for Rape and Incest	Punishment for Performing	Punishment for Aiding/Abetting	Punishment for Obtaining	Constitutional Amendments
Texas	Allows abortion to preserve the mother's life or to avoid "impairment of a major bodily function."	Abortion is not permitted, regardless the gestational duration of the fetus.	There are only two abnormalities recognized by Texas as reasons to perform an abortion: (1) an ectopic pregnancy at any location; or(2) a pre-viable premature rupture of membranes.	No exception for pregnancies that are a product of rape or incest.	Possible punishments for performing doctors in Texas: \$100,000 fine, criminal penalty, and medical license revocation.	If someone aids or abets an abortion, they could be liable to a civil action lawsuit.	No restrictions on those who obtain.	Undetermined by the Texas Supreme Court.
Most/Very Protective	A health risk to the mother is not necessary to receive an abortion.	Some restrict abortion to before fetal viability (24 weeks and after), other states do not have a restriction based on gestational duration.	Lethal fetal abnormalities are not necessary to receive an abortion.	Not applicable; no complete ban.	No punishment for performing. Many states protect healthcare professionals from harm or harassment they may experience for performing abortions.	No punishment for aiding or abetting. Many states protect healthcare professionals from harm or harassment they may experience for performing abortions.	No restrictions on those who obtain.	States constitutions that recognize the right to an abortion: California, Montana, North Dakota, Minnesota, Illinois, Kansas, Oklahoma, Alaska, Mississippi, New Jersey, and Massachusetts.
Some Restrictions/ Protections	Allows abortion to preserve the physical or mental health of the mother.	If there is a gestational duration ban, it is upwards of 22 weeks. Some states do not have a ban based on the number of weeks into a pregnancy.	Most accept abortions past gestational limit if there is a lethal abnormality to the fetus.	Not applicable; no complete ban.	In some states, only physicians may perform an abortion. Actions that defy that policy lead to civil or criminal penalties.	Some (not all) states have civil or criminal penalties for those who facilitate or aid in an abortion.	No restrictions on those who obtain.	Many states are undetermined by the State Supreme Court. Two states, Tennessee and West Virginia, had their supreme court overruled by a ballot initiative, which advanced abortion restrictions.
Most/Very Restrictive	Abortion only permissible if giving birth would cause death or serious complications to this mother.	Many states do not permit abortion no matter the gestational duration. In some states abortion is allowed up until 6-18 weeks of pregnancy.	Majority have no exceptions. Occasional exception for ectopic pregnancy and/or a pre-viable premature rupture of membranes.	No exception for pregnancies that are a product of rape or incest.	Performing doctor or physician could receive a civil penalty, felony, and/or a revocation of their license to practice medicine.	Facilitating or abetting in an abortion past the permitted gestation could result in a misdemeanor, or a civil suit.	There is no punishment on the person receiving an abortion. The only state punishing the recipient of an abortion is Nevada.	Five states have constitutions that deny the right to abortion: Idaho, Iowa, Indiana, South Carolina, Florida