



It's Time - Postcard Kit

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It's Time to Fix the Texas Abortion Law.

Thanks for stepping up to be a postcard campaign leader!

By participating in the **It's Time to Fix the Texas Abortion Ban** campaign, you can help convince Texas legislators that our state's current abortion laws go too far. Postcard signatures are a meaningful way to show lawmakers that their constituents agree with the majority of Texans who believe the existing ban is hurting women and their doctors.

Enclosed are the postcards you requested. We are happy to send you as many more as you need, or you can download them from our website at texasimpact.org. If your friends prefer paperless advocacy, they can sign a card on our website, too.

Also enclosed are handouts. Please use them to educate your congregation, friends and neighbors about the Texas abortion ban, including information about what is allowed under current law and where to go if you or someone you know needs help.

Be a campaign rockstar:

Learn the issue. Read through the enclosed handouts so you can answer questions.

Get the postcards signed. Talk to the people in your network—friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers—and encourage them to sign a postcard. Set a basket of postcards outside your worship space or wherever your community puts important information for folks to sign them as they pass by (include a drop-off basket for signed cards).

Remember: the more people you engage, the more legislators will get the message.

Send the cards back. When you have all your postcards signed (in pen, please!) put them in the enclosed envelope (or the box they came to you in) and mail it back to Texas Impact. The envelope is stamped for 10 cards—if you include more than 10, you'll need to add postage. Concerned about postage costs? Email Kyle@texasimpact.org to discuss options.

Three More Things

1. The cards ask for district numbers or a street address. It's so we can get each postcard to the correct legislator. We know you don't like junk mail—we don't plan to send you any.
2. The best way is to get the cards back to us is to send them in a bundle. You can ask people to mail their own cards back, but it's unlikely they will do it. Of course, if people want to mail individual cards back to us, they're welcome to do so.
3. The cards get mailed back to Texas Impact so we can count and sort them. We will deliver them to legislators in batches, with a bit of fanfare. Sending a single postcard to your legislator won't help as much as being part of a big group.

≡ **FAITH** ≡ & **REPRODUCTIVE POLICY**

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|--|---|
| <p>United Methodist Church</p> | <p>We recognize tragic conflicts of life with life that may justify abortion, and in such cases, we support the legal option of abortion under proper medical procedures by certified medical providers.</p> |
| <p>Evangelical Lutheran Church in America</p> | <p>A developing life in the womb does not have an absolute right to be born, nor does a pregnant woman have an absolute right to terminate a pregnancy.</p> |
| <p>Conservative Judaism</p> | <p>We may permit an abortion according to the Halakhah because of ‘great need’ and because of pain and suffering.</p> |
| <p>Unitarian Universalist</p> | <p>The right of individual conscience, and respect for human life are inalienable rights due every person; and the personal right to choose in regard to contraception and abortion is an important aspect of these rights.</p> |
| <p>National Council of Jewish Women</p> | <p>Every individual has the right to bodily autonomy and privacy, free from governmental, political, and religious interference in all health care decisions.</p> |
| <p>Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)</p> | <p>We respect differences in religious beliefs concerning abortion and oppose, in accord with the principle of religious liberty, any attempt to legislate a specific religious opinion or belief concerning abortion upon all Americans.</p> |
| <p>Episcopal Church</p> | <p>Since 1967, The Episcopal Church has maintained its “unequivocal opposition to any legislation on the part of the national or state governments which would abridge or deny the right of individuals to reach informed decisions [about the termination of pregnancy] and to act upon them.”</p> |
| <p>Presbyterian Church USA</p> | <p>We affirm the ability and responsibility of women, guided by the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit, in the context of their communities of faith, to make good moral choices in regard to problem pregnancies.</p> |
| <p>Cooperative Baptist Fellowship</p> | <p>Each local congregation is autonomous and decides for itself.</p> |
| <p>United Church of Christ</p> | <p>The United Church of Christ has supported reproductive justice issues since the 1960’s. As a human rights issue, reproductive justice promotes the rights of people to bear children they want to have, to not bear children, to raise the children they do have in safe and healthy environments, and express their sexuality without oppression.</p> |
| <p>Society of Friends</p> | <p>Members of the Society of Friends are not in unity on abortion issues. Therefore, Quakers take no position and do not act either for or against abortion legislation.</p> |
| <p>Islam</p> | <p>All schools of Muslim law accept that abortion is permitted if continuing the pregnancy would put the mother’s life in real danger.</p> |

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 |

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Wondering about the Texas Abortion Ban? Here's what you need to know.

What exactly is an abortion?

Abortion is defined medically as the expulsion of a fetus from the uterus before the fetus can survive outside the uterus. (Britannica, Yale Medicine, World Health Organization)

Abortion is defined by the Texas Legislature as “the act of using or prescribing an instrument, a drug, a medicine, or any other substance, device, or means with the intent to cause the death of an unborn child of a woman known to be pregnant. The term does not include birth control devices or oral contraceptives.”

(Texas Health and Safety Code Sec. 245.002)

1. In Texas, an abortion may be performed only by a physician. (Texas Health and Safety Code Sec. 171.003)
2. In Texas, a physician only may perform an abortion if he or she determines with reasonable medical judgment that the patient has a life-threatening medical condition that puts the patient at risk of death or at risk of impairment of a major bodily function. (Texas Health and Safety Code Sec. 170A.002)
3. Major bodily functions are defined in Texas law and include, but are not limited to: functions of the immune system, normal cell growth, and digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, and reproductive functions. (Texas Labor Code Sec. 21.002 (11-a))
4. The Texas abortion ban contains no exception for pregnancies resulting from rape or incest.
5. The Texas abortion ban contains no exception for pregnancies in which the fetus has an abnormality incompatible with life outside the uterus.
6. The conditions of ectopic pregnancy and previable premature rupture of membranes (PPROM) are affirmative defenses to liability in a civil action brought against a physician or health care provider for a violation of the Texas law banning abortions. (Texas Civil Practices and Remedies Code Sec. 74.552)
7. A physician who performs an abortion in Texas after detecting a fetal heartbeat is subject to criminal prosecution, a revocation of their medical license, and a civil penalty of \$100,000. (Texas Health and Safety Code Secs. 170A.005, 170A.005, 170A.007)
8. Any person, other than an officer or employee of a Texas state or local governmental entity, may sue any person who performs or induces an illegal abortion or knowingly aids or abets an illegal abortion. (Texas Health and Safety Code Sec. 171.208)
9. A patient who undergoes an abortion in Texas cannot be punished for obtaining the abortion. (Texas Health and Safety Code Sec. 170A.003)
10. Texans can legally obtain abortion assistance via tele-health, the internet, or by traveling to another state.



Learn more at
www.txfaith.org/lets-talk-tx
or scan our QR code!



Need help now? Call the National Abortion
Hotline. Free and confidential.
1-800-772-9100



@tximpact

★ TEXAS IMPACT
FAITH IN DEMOCRACY SINCE 1973

www.texasimpact.org

Lets get clear on Texas abortion law.

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Abortion is the removal of pregnancy tissue, products of conception or the fetus and placenta (afterbirth) from the uterus. (Harvard Medical School, “Harvard Health Online”)

1

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4



The Texas abortion ban contains no exception for pregnancies resulting from rape or incest.

5

The Texas abortion ban contains no exception for pregnancies in which the fetus has an abnormality inconsistent with life outside the uterus.

6

Physicians who perform abortions in cases of ectopic pregnancies and previable premature rupture of membranes (PPROM) are assumed in Texas law to have exercised reasonable medical judgment. (Texas Civil Practices and Remedies Code Title 4 Sec. 74.552)

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A physician who performs an abortion in Texas after detecting a fetal heartbeat is subject to criminal prosecution, a revocation of their medical license, and a civil penalty of \$100,000. (Texas Health and Safety Code Title 2 Sec. 170A.005)

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Any person, other than an officer or employee of a Texas state or local governmental entity, may sue any person who performs or induces an illegal abortion or knowingly aids or abets an illegal abortion. (Texas Health and Safety Code Title 2 Sec 171.208)

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Texans can legally obtain abortion assistance via telehealth, the internet, or by traveling to another state.

It's time to fix the Texas abortion ban

Since 2021, Texas has passed laws that have made abortion almost entirely illegal.

Many folks associate abortion with unplanned pregnancies, but sometimes it's necessary to end a pregnancy that threatens the mother's life or fertility.

A doctor who terminates a pregnancy in Texas faces loss of license; \$100K fine; and life in prison if a court disagrees with the doctor that the abortion was medically necessary.

In a recent study, 71% of practicing ob/gyns surveyed said Texas abortion laws have hurt their ability to provide medically necessary care to patients.

Medical college data show a 16% drop in Texas ob/gyn residency applications since Texas' draconian laws took effect.

As we learn of more and more cases where women have been harmed or died from the Texas abortion ban, it's important to remember:

Only the Texas Legislature can fix the laws they passed.

Scan here to find out how you can send them a message:



★ **TEXAS**
IMPACT
PEOPLE OF FAITH WORKING FOR JUSTICE

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