

KNOW THE FACTS. BE INFORMED.

# Abortion Restrictions in Minnesota

The vast majority (96%) of **Minnesotans don't know** that lawmakers in our state have been quietly passing laws that restrict abortion access, intimidate providers and patients, and increase healthcare costs.

In 1995, the Minnesota Supreme Court held that the Minnesota Constitution guarantees and protects Minnesotans' right to decide to continue a pregnancy or seek abortion care, without the government trying to sway the decision one way or the other. As attacks on safe, legal, and essential reproductive health care sweep across the country, now is the time to respect our state constitution, respect women and patients, and safeguard all of our rights and freedoms.

Below is a list of just *some* of the laws that restrict access to safe, legal abortion in Minnesota:

- Mandate that doctors provide medically-irrelevant and biased information to patients.** Anti-abortion legislators have mandated what doctors must tell patients before they are allowed to have an abortion. This includes medically irrelevant information, like suggesting a link between abortion and breast cancer. Doctors already obtain informed consent and counsel patients on the risks and benefits of the treatment.
- Prevent advanced-practice clinicians from prescribing medication abortion or providing the procedure early in pregnancy.** Providers other than physicians could be charged with a felony if they provide abortion care. Advanced-practice clinicians, like nurse midwives or nurse practitioners, are allowed to provide early abortion care in 16 states, including Montana and West Virginia.
- Mandate that people make an extra, medically unnecessary appointment for care.** People who have decided to have an abortion must schedule an extra, medically unnecessary appointment to hear a state-mandated script at least 24-hours before obtaining care. There is no medical reason for forcing patients to wait 24-hours before they can receive abortion care.
- Mandate that doctors talk about a man's obligation to pay child support before a woman is allowed to have an abortion.** State law requires doctors to provide this information, even if the doctor believes this information may cause emotional harm to a patient.
- Mandate that doctors provide detailed information about each patient to the State Commissioner of Health.** Even though the patient's name is not reported, the state mandates that clinics and providers report a patient's age, how many previous abortions and miscarriages they have had, and how they are paying for the abortion. In the state's public report, the Minnesota Department of Health also reports on the patient's race, marital status, and county of residence, among other things.
- Mandate that fetal tissue from an abortion be cremated or buried.** This law is based on the beliefs of anti-abortion activists, not standard medical or public health safety protocols. Mandating this not only increases the cost of care, but can be emotionally traumatic for patients and violate their wishes or religious beliefs.
- Mandate that minors notify both parents of their decision to have an abortion, even if the minor has an abusive relationship, or no relationship, with one or both of their parents.** Minors who cannot notify both parents must go through the court system. Even if a minor can notify both their parents, they may be required to jump through bureaucratic hoops to prove the parental relationship, like gathering birth certificates. Since parents must be notified at least 48-hours before the abortion, this law effectively creates a 48-hour waiting period for minors. Minors are not mandated by law to notify parents for any other medical decisions related to pregnancy, including giving birth.