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## Reproductive Rights: Why Act Now

### Background

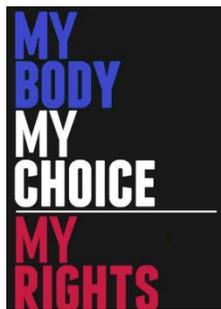
Although abortion is still legal in the United States, Michigan Republicans have been passing state-level legislation to incrementally chip away at women's reproductive rights. Such restrictions on reproductive healthcare access cost the state money; make women more likely to experience poverty, domestic violence and poor health; hurt low-income women of color the most; and often force women to put their lives at risk by seeking illegal abortions.

### Core Message

Republican-led strategies to limit reproductive healthcare access include insurance coverage restrictions; costly, unnecessary licensing and administrative regulations on abortion facilities; a mandatory waiting period and mandatory biased counseling; a ban on telemedicine for abortion services; parental consent requirements; state funding limitations; threatened outlawing of dilation and evacuation procedures; and proposed fetal heartbeat bills.

### Key Arguments

1. **Limitations on insurance coverage for abortions hurt low-income women the most.** State law prohibits health insurance plans from covering abortions, except when it is necessary to save the mother's life. This explains why in 2019, 94.3 percent of abortions in Michigan were paid out-of-pocket by the patient. The lack of insurance coverage hits low-income women the hardest, as they do not have the resources to pay for the procedure themselves.



2. **Targeted regulation of abortion providers (TRAP Laws) are burdensome and medically unnecessary, regulations designed to shut-down reproductive health care clinics and make it more difficult for women to access healthcare.** Fetal heartbeat bills, criminal sentencing for providers, onerous facility regulations, and other GOP tactics strip many family planning clinics of the resources and support they need to survive. In 2011, Michigan had 41 abortion providers; as of 2014, only 29 remained, representing a 29 percent drop. In 2017, 87 percent of Michigan counties had no abortion-providing clinic. Without these clinics and doctors, Michigan women lose access to contraception and other types of reproductive healthcare, not just abortion services.

3. **Providing comprehensive reproductive healthcare saves money.** Publicly-supported clinics in Michigan helped avert 25,100 unintended pregnancies in 2014, which would have resulted in 12,200 unplanned births and 9,100 abortions. In 2010, the federal and Michigan state governments saved \$212.4 million due to the family planning services provided by publicly-funded clinics. In a state recovering from economic downturn, taking this opportunity to save money is a no-brainer.

4. **Michiganders want to protect abortion access.** The majority of people in Michigan are pro-choice. A survey by the Pew Research Center revealed that 54 percent of adults in Michigan think abortion should be legal in all or most cases. Public opinion in Michigan clearly demands the need for abortion services.

### TALKING POINTS

- While the fate of *Roe v. Wade* is in the hands of a conservative Supreme Court, the GOP is pushing increasingly restrictive regulations on abortion. It's now more important than ever that Democrats take back the Legislature to protect reproductive rights in MI.
- Fetal heartbeat bills are essentially a ban on all abortion at 6 weeks, often before a woman knows she is pregnant, denying women their constitutionally protected right to reproductive healthcare.
- Providing safe and affordable reproductive healthcare ultimately saves MI money.
- Expanding access to affordable reproductive healthcare allows women to make medical decisions without the interference of politicians.
- Let's flip the MI House to make sure family planning clinics can keep their doors open and provide care to everyone who needs it.

See complete report: [An Ominous Future: Reproductive Rights in Michigan](#)