



QUICK FACTS

August 2022

AAUW supports choice in determining one's reproductive life and increased access to health care and family planning services.

AAUW trusts that everyone can make their own informed choices about their reproductive lives within the dictates of their own moral and religious beliefs. Further, we believe that these deeply personal decisions should be made without government interference.

Family planning fosters self-sufficiency, promotes preventive health care, and teaches people how to prevent the spread of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). With many schools exclusively providing abstinence-only sex

mony in hearings, and statements on unfolding events.
i Providing voter education resources on key equity issues to consider during elections and offering information on how elected officials have voted

(STIs) in the industrialized world.

Access to family planning and a full range of reproductive health services enhances an individual's reproductive choices—which leads to improvements in women's health care and economic security. The ability to control when to start a family has been linked to

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In the first half of 2022 alone, [43 abortion restrictions](#) were enacted in 12 states. Abortion rights are protected under only [11 states' constitutions](#), while legislatures in Tennessee, Alabama, West Virginia and Louisiana have passed explicitly [anti-abortion amendments](#) to their own.

Overall, 26 states have banned or are likely to ban abortion—impacting the 36 million women of reproductive age living in those states. Low-income women, women of color, and women with disabilities will be especially harmed as they are [disproportionately likely](#) to live in those states, and already face substantial barriers to accessing reproductive services and health care.

Many states have also moved to restrict access to medication abortion, which [accounts](#) for more than half of abortions in the U.S. As of July 2022, 28 state legislatures had [introduced](#) bans or restrictions on medication abortion. Though telemedicine has become increasingly important during the COVID-pandemic, 19 states [prohibit](#) the use of telehealth services to provide medication abortion, and 8 other states are now attempting to do so. Further, the mailing of abortion pills is already [banned](#) in Arizona, Arkansas, and Texas, with several other states introducing bans in 2022.

Find out where your state stands and [track pending legislation here](#).

The 1976 Hyde Amendment is a legislative provision barring the use of federal funds to pay for abortion, except in cases of rape, incest or as a lifesaving measure. The 1973 Helms Amendment applies to foreign aid, barring federal funds from being distributed to organizations that provide abortion care. In addition, the Global Gag Rule—an executive order that changes with each administration (also known as the Mexico City Policy)—has

Currently, [six states](#) permit pharmacists to refuse to fill prescriptions for emergency contraception and all forms of birth control without giving critical protections for patients, such as requiring pharmacies to transfer prescriptions or provide referrals. AAUW believes pharmacies should be required to fill all prescriptions for contraception and sell legal emergency contraception.

AAUW's advocacy for the right to safe, accessible and comprehensive reproductive health care is critical to achieving equity and justice for all. We must ensure that government policies reflect and address the needs and priorities of a diverse range of individuals, families and communities, especially those who face barriers to access. We will also work to ensure that appointees, nominees and elected officials affirm protections for individuals and work to improve overall health and well-being in the United States and around the world.

Additional Resources

[American Association of University Women \(AAUW\)](#)

[Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization](#)

[American Association of University Women \(AAUW\)](#)

[The Guttmacher Institute](#)