



# EXPEDITING AUTHORITY FOR ARIZONA ABORTION PROVIDERS TO OFFER CARE IN CALIFORNIA

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## HOW WE GOT HERE

On April 9, Arizona's Supreme Court ruled that an 1864 law—when Arizona was just a territory—would be allowed to go into effect. Once it does, on June 8, access to abortion will be eliminated almost entirely in Arizona. This extreme law says anyone who “*provides, supplies or administers*” an abortion or abortion drugs will face a state prison sentence of two to five years unless the abortion is necessary to save the mother's life. No other exceptions—including for rape or incest—are allowed.

## NEW CALIFORNIA ACTION

Governor Newsom and the California Legislative Women's Caucus are proposing legislation to support Arizona providers and patients, which Arizona leaders identified as being potentially helpful.

**SB 233 (Skinner and Aguiar-Curry)** would temporarily allow licensed Arizona doctors to provide abortion and abortion-related care to Arizona patients traveling to California through November 30, 2024. The Arizona doctors would be under the oversight of California's Medical Board and Osteopathic Medical Board and would be required to provide registration information to those boards. The bill contains an urgency clause and would take effect immediately.

## CURRENT SUPPORT FROM CALIFORNIA

In response to *Roe v. Wade* being overturned, Governor Newsom and the Legislature created a \$20 million **Abortion Practical Support Fund** (assisted nearly 1,500 people in first 6 months) to cover travel, meals, childcare, and more; and a \$40 million **Uncompensated Care Fund** (assisted more than 40,000 people in first 6 months) to cover abortion care costs – part of the Governor's historic \$240 million investment to protect and expand reproductive freedom.

## CURRENT PROTECTIONS BY CALIFORNIA

Governor Newsom and the Legislature have enacted a package of **20+ bills** to strengthen **protections for providers delivering abortion care** and patients' reproductive **health care information**. California law protects **electronic medical records** related to abortion care so people receiving care in California don't have to worry about records being used against them in other states. Additionally, California **protects providers against other states' laws** that criminalize or limit reproductive health care. A comprehensive list of actions by Governor Newsom on reproductive freedom can be found [here](#).

## KEY NUMBERS

- Last year, [160,000 people](#) had to **travel outside of the state they live in** to get abortion care.
- During the first 15 months after *Roe* was overturned, [California](#) providers performed more than **12,000 additional abortions** than was expected if *Roe* had not been overturned.
- States with abortion access that border a state that has banned access say abortions [increased](#) by **about 37%** between 2020 & 2023.

Learn More at [Abortion.CA.Gov](https://Abortion.CA.Gov)

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### ***How will this legislation help Arizonans receive reproductive care?***

- Once Arizona's ruling goes into effect, Arizonans will effectively lose all access to abortion care in their state.
- By authorizing Arizona abortion providers to legally provide abortions to Arizona patients in California, this law will allow any Arizonan in need of abortion care the option to see an Arizona provider (in addition to a California provider) on the California side of the border.

### ***Is there a timeline for this bill? How quickly can this legislation go into effect?***

- The Governor's Office is working closely with Legislative Leadership and the Legislative Women's Caucus to move this bill quickly.
- According to the Arizona Attorney General, the ban will take effect on June 8. The Governor's Office intends to have this law passed before then.
- The law includes an urgency clause, which means it will take effect immediately upon the Governor's signature.

### ***How will Arizona abortion providers be able to get licensed in California? Would this process take place through the Medical Board of California or another process?***

- Arizona providers would submit required documentation, including proof of their current Arizona licensure status, to either the Medical Board or the Osteopathic Medical Board of California.
- After submitting their application and required documentation, the applicable board would verify that the provider meets the requirements for registration and would register the provider through November 30, 2024.

### ***Would abortion providers be able to cross state lines between Arizona and California or would they have to relocate permanently to California?***

- Arizona abortion providers may relocate or may travel back-and-forth. The law does not require residency, and is based on existing state law (SB 143, 2023) and federal law for military spouses.

### ***Would Arizona providers be able to treat all patients, including those from California?***

- No, the temporary registration would only authorize Arizona providers the ability to provide abortion and related care to Arizona residents.
- Existing law (AB 657, 2022) allows abortion providers the ability to have their license expedited. If an Arizona abortion provider wants to be fully California licensed (not just temporarily), they can take advantage of this existing process.

### ***Does this apply to all Arizona abortion providers or just licensed doctors?***

- This bill only applies to licensed physicians in good standing.

### ***Will this cost the taxpayers additional money?***

- No. The organization “Red Wine & Blue,” which represents a community of over half a million suburban women, has created the **Arizona Freedom Trust** to raise funds to compensate Arizona providers. Initial funds have already been committed and grassroots fundraising efforts for people to support start today.

### ***What if Arizona repeals this 1864 ban?***

- Repealing this harmful ban would be welcomed, but it is unlikely to happen immediately.
- This legislation is a valuable stopgap even in the scenario where Arizona Republican-led legislature passes a law to repeal this extreme ban.
- Given its urgency clause, SB 233 would fill a critical gap for care for a meaningful period of time before an Arizona repeal could be implemented.
- Swift action by California helps combat the chilling effect these back-and-forth approaches have on people.