



# GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

## FIGHTING LIKE HELL TO PROTECT REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS



Governor Whitmer is using every tool in her toolbox to protect reproductive freedom in Michigan. She has taken a number of bold steps to protect the 2.2 million women in Michigan who would lose their bodily autonomy and equal rights if Michigan's 1931 law banning abortion without exceptions for rape or incest and criminalizing doctors and nurses were to go into effect. Over the last few months, starting before the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v Wade, the governor filed a lawsuit and asked the Michigan Supreme Court to recognize a constitutional right to an abortion in Michigan. She signed an executive directive instructing state departments to increase protections for reproductive health care, urged bold federal action to protect the right to choose by law, and invested in programs to improve health care services for women.

*"I will fight like hell to protect every Michiganders' right to make decisions about their own body with the advice of a medical professional they trust. Now is the time to use every tool in our toolbox to protect women and reproductive health care. I will not give in or give up for my kids, your kids, and the future of our great state."*

*- Governor Gretchen Whitmer*

### Protecting access to safe, legal abortions and reproductive health services

- Filed a proactive lawsuit with the Michigan Supreme Court to [protect abortion access](#) for 2.2 million Michigan women of reproductive age. Filed a [motion](#) urging the court to immediately consider her lawsuit in light of the U.S. Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v Wade and clarify that access to abortion is not only legal but constitutionally protected in Michigan. Sent a letter to the Michigan Supreme Court after Roe was overturned [urging immediate action on her lawsuit](#).
- [Filed](#) and was [granted](#) an emergency restraining order to prevent nurses and doctors from being prosecuted for providing reproductive health care.
- Signed an [executive directive](#) instructing state departments to identify and assess opportunities to increase protections for reproductive health, communicate directly with the public on reproductive issues, provide accessible, comprehensive information about the current cost and availability of reproductive care, [increase public awareness](#) about the [availability and safety of contraception](#), and not to cooperate with or assist authorities of any state in an investigation or proceeding against anyone for obtaining, providing, or assisting someone else to obtain or provide reproductive healthcare.
- Signed an executive order [refusing to extradite women and abortion providers](#) who come to Michigan seeking reproductive freedom.
- Vetoed budget language in every state budget that aimed to [roll back access to abortion](#) and reproductive healthcare.
- Joined 16 governors to call on the United States Congress to pass the Women's Health Protection Act, which would [codify access to safe, legal abortion](#) offered by Roe v Wade into federal law.
- Called on President Biden to make [birth control available](#) over the counter without a prescription.
- Called on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to [reduce barriers to mifepristone](#), a safe, effective abortion medication.
- Called on the federal government to clarify Michiganders' right to cross the US-Canada border to seek [reproductive health care or prescription medication](#).

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- Called on the legislature to [repeal the state's 1931 law](#) banning abortions, which hasn't been enforced since the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade.
- Called on the legislature to pass the [Michigan Reproductive Health Act](#) to guarantee individuals are free to make independent decisions about their own reproductive health.
- Called on Michigan insurers to make sure Michigan women have [coverage for reproductive healthcare](#).
- Called on [big tech companies](#) to take steps to protect private health and location data that law enforcement agencies in other states have used to go after women seeking reproductive health care.
- Expanded access to [birth control](#) for 200,000 retirees and their families covered by the MPERS non-Medicare health plan.
- Released guidance to enable pharmacists to prescribe [hormonal birth control](#)—oral pills, the ring, the patch—in partnership with doctors, expanding women's control over their own bodies.

## **Investing in healthy moms and healthy babies**

- Invested in [Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies](#), an initiative to address disproportionate racial impacts of maternal and infant mortality and ensure moms have the support they need for healthy pregnancies, deliveries, and postpartum care.
- Signed an [FY 2023 budget](#) that included an expansion of Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies initiative, created an adoption tax credit, and increased access to reproductive health care, infant home visits, and additional supports for families.
- Sought a waiver to expand "[Plan First!](#)", an initiative that offers no or low-cost family planning services for Medicaid eligible families.
- Extended [Healthy Michigan](#) to [over 1 million people](#).
- Called on congress to [lower healthcare costs](#) for over 270,000 Michiganders by making enhanced Affordable Care Act tax credits permanent.
- Expanded access to [telemedicine](#) and signed legislation requiring all insurers to [cover telehealth](#).
- Established a policy that will guarantee critical medical resources and support to Department of Corrections' [pregnant and post-partum prisoners and their newborns](#).