

District of Columbia | NOT RANKED

The District of Columbia provides virtually no protection for human life, failing to protect women from the harms inherent in abortion, to recognize and protect unborn victims of violence, or to prohibit suicide by physician. It also fails to protect the fundamental freedom of conscience of healthcare providers.

ABORTION

- In 2020, the “Strengthening Reproductive Health Protections Amendment Act of 2020” was passed, which affirmed a “right to have an abortion as a human right in the District of Columbia.”
- Taxpayer funds may not be used for abortions unless the abortion is necessary to preserve the woman’s life, or the pregnancy was the result of rape or incest.
- Abortion may not be performed after viability unless necessary to preserve the woman’s life or health.
- Abortions may only be performed under the direction of a licensed medical practitioner.

LEGAL RECOGNITION AND PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN AND NEWLY BORN INFANTS

- The laws of the District of Columbia do not recognize an unborn child as a potential crime victim.
- The District of Columbia allows a parent or other relative to bring a wrongful death (civil) lawsuit when a viable unborn child is killed through another’s negligent or criminal act.

BIOETHICS LAWS

- The District of Columbia maintains no laws related to human cloning, destructive embryo research, fetal experimentation, human egg harvesting, or assisted reproductive technologies.

PATIENT PROTECTION LAWS

- Suicide by physician is now legal for patients who have received a terminal diagnosis of six months or less.

HEALTHCARE FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE

PARTICIPATION IN ABORTION

- The District of Columbia currently provides no protection for the rights of healthcare providers who conscientiously object to participation in abortion.
- Healthcare employers are prohibited from making hiring decisions based on the willingness of a healthcare professional to participate in abortion or sterilization procedures.

PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH HARMFUL TO HUMAN LIFE

- The District of Columbia currently provides no protection for the rights of healthcare providers who conscientiously object to participation in human cloning, destructive embryo research, or other forms of medical research that violate a provider’s moral or religious beliefs.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER *ROE* IS OVERTURNED?

- Abortion will be legal throughout pregnancy.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WOMEN'S PROTECTION PROJECT PRIORITIES

- Enhanced penalties and enforcement mechanisms for the District's abortion-related laws
 - Women's Right to Know Act with reflection period
 - Coercive Abuse Against Mothers Prevention Act
 - Women's Health Protection Act (abortion clinic regulations, emergency transfer and admission provisions)
 - Drug-Induced Abortion Information and Reporting Act
 - Parental Notification for Abortion Act
 - Child Protection Act
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INFANTS' PROTECTION PROJECT

- Unborn Infants Dignity Act
 - Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act
 - Perinatal Hospice Information Act
 - Born-Alive Infant Protection Act
 - Unborn Infants Wrongful Death Act
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PATIENT PROTECTION ACT PRIORITIES

- Suicide by Physician Ban Act
 - Joint Resolution Opposing Suicide by Physician
 - Charlie Gard Act (formerly the Life Sustaining Care Act)
 - Pain Management Education Act
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ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

ABORTION

- Defunding the Abortion Industry and Advancing Women's Health Act
- Federal Abortion-Mandate Opt-Out Act

LEGAL RECOGNITION AND PROTECTION FOR THE UNBORN

- Crimes Against the Unborn Child Act
- Pregnant Woman's Protection Act

BIOETHICS

- Human Cloning Prohibition Act
- Destructive Embryo Research Act
- Prohibition on Public Funding of Human Cloning and Destructive Embryo Research Act

END OF LIFE

- Repeal Suicide by Physician Law and Enact Suicide by Physician Ban Act

HEALTHCARE FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE

- Healthcare Freedom of Conscience Act