

## Eliminated Our Reproductive Freedom

**MAGA Extremists in the Arizona Legislature blocked efforts to overturn the state's 1864 abortion ban.** In April 2024, after the state Supreme Court effectively banned abortion by upholding an 1864 law prohibiting the procedure in all circumstances except to save the mother's life, Republican legislators blocked legislation to overturn the ban. Senate Republican leaders including Senate President Warren Petersen removed the legislation from the agenda. In the House, all Republicans but one voted to adjourn rather than consider the legislation. Speaker Ben Toma and the far-right Republicans who make up the "Freedom Caucus" said they would oppose efforts to overturn the ban. [Axios, [4/10/2024](#); New York Times, [4/10/2024](#)]

**MAGA Extremists in the Arizona Legislature introduced one of the most draconian anti-abortion bills in the country which required prosecutors to charge women who opted to end their pregnancies and their physicians with murder.** House Bill 2650, sponsored by 10 Republican legislators including Speaker Ben Toma, would give county attorneys the power to prosecute "homicide by abortion," regardless of conflicting federal laws or court decisions. According to the Arizona Republic, "The legislation, which expands the definition of a 'person' to include 'an unborn child in the womb at any stage of development,' would allow both the state attorney general and county attorneys to prosecute 'homicide by abortion.' It removes existing protections for 'an unborn child's mother' as well as 'the person ... performing an abortion' with the mother's consent. The Arizona bill leaves open the possibility of first-degree murder charges — which can result in the death penalty or a lifetime sentence — and does not protect mothers from prosecution." The bill eventually stalled out in committee and was not passed by the legislature. [The Arizona Republic, [1/22/2021](#); HB 2650, [Accessed 10/18/2021](#)]

**MAGA Extremists in the Arizona Legislature passed a Mississippi-style abortion ban with no exceptions for rape or incest.** In 2022, Republican legislators passed SB1164, which outlawed abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy with no exceptions for rape, incest, or non-viable fetuses. The measure, which closely mirrored a Mississippi law, was intended to take effect quickly if the Supreme Court eroded abortion rights. The bill made it a crime for a doctor to perform an abortion after 15 weeks, after which they could face felony charges and lose their license to practice medicine. The bill passed the legislature on party-line votes and was signed by Gov. Ducey. [SB1164, [2022](#); Arizona's Family, [3/24/22](#)]

**MAGA Extremist Arizona Senator J.D. Mesnard co-leads the hate group responsible for the case overturning *Roe v. Wade* and that supports reducing access to birth control .** State Sen. J.D. Mesnard is the head of the state legislative division of the Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), a Christian conservative legal group and Southern Poverty Law Center-designated hate group dedicated to rolling back LGBTQ and reproductive rights. Its lawyers have won Supreme Court cases overturning *Roe v. Wade* and allowing employer-sponsored health insurance to exclude birth control, and the Arizona Supreme Court case upholding the state's 1864 law banning nearly all abortions. Its longtime leader, the anti-gay activist Alan Sears, said he wishes for the day "when people say the birth-control pill was a mistake." [The New Yorker, [10/9/2023](#); Southern Poverty Law Center, Accessed [2/21/2024](#)]