

6 THINGS STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD DO TO PROTECT AND EXPAND REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

EVEN IN RESTRICTIVE STATES

Project 2025 laid out what anti-abortion extremists plan to do under **a second Trump Administration**. The Project 2025 agenda calls for, among many other harmful things:

Disqualifying clinics that provide or are affiliated with clinics that provide abortion care ***from participating in the Medicaid program***

Cutting funding to the Title X program for clinics providing reproductive health care services, including contraception and STI treatment and testing

Allowing hospitals to deny abortions to people experiencing ***pregnancy-related emergencies***, threatening their life and health

Expanding ***federal surveillance of pregnant people***, leading to increased policing and criminalization

Regardless of the political reality in your state, there are things you can do that will guard against the expected attacks on our rights and lay the groundwork for future expansion of reproductive health care protections and access. ***In restrictive states, several of these policies can be adapted to the local level for passage in progressive cities and counties.*** They can also be packaged into a vision bill that you can organize around for long-term state-level change.

Abortion access states must take steps now to protect against the expected attacks on reproductive health care from the federal government and lead the way to reproductive freedom. The policies they implement now will become the blueprint for future action. ***Access states must be bold and visionary.***

1 *Repeal any existing restrictions on abortion care, including barriers to young people's access to care.*

Advocates in states with anti-abortion governments can also begin laying the groundwork for the repeal of abortion restrictions. Local governments can help build power and pressure to repeal anti-abortion restrictions, regardless of their state's climate.

Protect patients' privacy.

States should protect electronic reproductive health records and commercial data from being shared or accessed without patients' permission. This includes requiring that health information systems segregate patient information so that reproductive health records can't be accessed by people out of state or other providers who don't need that information.

2

3 *Fund abortion and other reproductive health care.*

States and local governments can allocate funds to help people pay for reproductive health care, including but not limited to abortion care and the practical supports people need to access it, such as travel and childcare.

Invest in the reproductive health care ecosystem.

Provide funding to reproductive health care providers so they can expand access to care. This can include funding to help extend hours, expand access to telemedicine, open new clinics in underserved communities, improve their buildings, technology, and security, and invest in training for health care providers including, abortion providers, doulas and midwives. In addition to investing in abortion clinics, both access states and restrictive states should invest in expanding access to clinics that provide STI treatment and testing, contraception, and prenatal and postpartum care. Local governments can also invest in reproductive health care clinics and expanding the community-based birthworker force.

4

5 Ensure patients can access emergency reproductive health care by passing laws

similar to the federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act that explicitly requires emergency departments to provide necessary medical care, including abortions, to people experiencing pregnancy-related emergencies. Local governments may also be able to enact provisions requiring emergency care.

End the policing of reproductive health care decisions and pregnancy outcomes.

Governments can implement policies that prohibit discrimination or punishment for pregnancy-related decisions, such as laws preventing employers, law enforcement, or medical professionals from investigating or prosecuting individuals based on their reproductive decisions or pregnancy outcomes. Local governments can work with law enforcement to clarify that abortion is not a crime and will not be treated as such, and with local health care providers and hospital systems to end any non-essential contact with law enforcement regarding pregnancy care and miscarriage management.

6

For more information on the above policy ideas, contact NIRH at [***partnerships@nirhealth.org***](mailto:partnerships@nirhealth.org). NIRH can provide additional detail and guidance and connect you with other advocates who are working on these issues.