

## Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin To Resume Abortion Care for Patients

Written by GOV Press Wisconsin  
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<http://newiproggressive.com/images/stories/S5/women-health-services1-s5.jpg>



***Governor: “I will never let up. And we must not let up. Our fight to restore the same reproductive rights and freedoms Wisconsinites had up until the day the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe must continue.”***

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MADISON — Gov. Evers today released a statement regarding the decision by Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin to resume providing abortion services to patients in Wisconsin.

Over a year ago now, on June 24, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, overturning *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pa. v. Casey* and upending nearly 50 years of a constitutional right to abortion that Wisconsinites and Americans had relied upon for nearly five decades.

The U.S. Supreme Court decision to overturn *Roe* threw reproductive freedom in Wisconsin into chaos. As Wisconsin remains one of several states with an outdated criminal abortion ban on the books—which was enacted in 1849 before the Civil War and at a time when Wisconsin women did not have the right to vote—healthcare providers and patients in Wisconsin were thrown into legal uncertainty, and nearly all abortion services in the state ceased.

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Since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe*, Wisconsinites have been without abortion care services, with few exceptions, for over a year now.

Days after the *Dobbs* decision was released, Gov. Evers and Attorney General Josh Kaul filed a lawsuit to clarify that Wisconsin's outdated, total criminal ban on abortion is unenforceable. On July 7, 2023, the Dane County Circuit Court denied a motion to dismiss the case and decided to allow that lawsuit to continue. In her ruling, the judge stated that "...Wis. Stat. § 940.04 does not prohibit a consensual medical abortion." In response to the court's ruling, Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin today announced they plan to resume providing abortion services to patients in Wisconsin.



"I've been clear from the beginning that I would fight to restore reproductive freedom in our state with every power and every tool we have, and I've spent every day over the last year doing just that," said Gov. Evers. "Today's announcement from Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin as a result of our lawsuit regarding Wisconsin's criminal abortion ban means Wisconsinites will once again be able to access vital reproductive healthcare and abortion services without exception for the first time since June of last year. This is critically important news for Wisconsin women and patients across our state who, for a year now, have been unable to access the healthcare they need when and where they need it.

"But I also want to be clear today: I will never let up. And we must not let up. Our fight to restore the same reproductive rights and freedoms Wisconsinites had up until the day the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe* must continue," Gov. Evers continued. "I will keep fighting like hell every day until Wisconsinites have the right to make their own healthcare decisions without interference from politicians who don't know anything about their lives, their family, or their circumstances."

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Gov. Evers and Democrats have been working to protect and defend reproductive freedom for Wisconsinites for the past four years, including in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe* and decades of reproductive healthcare precedent with their ruling in *Dobbs*.

Over the course of the past four years, the governor has vetoed several bills passed by the Legislature, including several during the last legislative session that would have restricted access to abortion, inserted politics into the personal and private conversations between patients and their healthcare providers and made it harder for doctors to provide medically accurate information and treatment. Many of these bills also sought to limit healthcare options for people seeking basic, necessary care, such as pregnancy care, cancer screening and prevention, sexually transmitted disease screening and treatment, and wellness exams.

Prior to the *Dobbs* decision, Gov. Evers joined legislative Democrats in [calling on the Legislature](#) to repeal Wisconsin's archaic criminal abortion ban. When a leaked draft U.S. Supreme Court opinion in *Dobbs* revealed the Supreme Court was poised to overturn *Roe*, Gov. Evers called the Legislature into a [special session](#) to press legislative action to protect reproductive freedom.

Mere days after Republican legislators [gaveled in and out](#) of the special session in moments without any discussion or debate, and despite broad public concern about the topic, the U.S. Supreme Court released their decision in *Dobbs*, throwing reproductive healthcare access in Wisconsin into immediate chaos and uncertainty. Just days after the U.S. Supreme Court released their *Dobbs* decision, Gov. Evers and the attorney general filed a lawsuit challenging Wisconsin's criminal abortion ban. On July 7, 2023, the Dane County Circuit Court denied a motion to dismiss the case and decided to allow the lawsuit to proceed challenging the enforceability of Wisconsin's 1800s-era criminal abortion ban against physicians providing healthcare.

Last fall, after U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wisconsin) erroneously [suggested](#) Wisconsin voters could challenge the state's 1800s-era criminal abortion ban directly through a binding statewide referendum—something he has repeatedly since recommended, which he knows is not permissible in Wisconsin even though it is allowable in 20 other states—Gov. Evers again [called the Legislature into a special session](#) to create a pathway for Wisconsinites to directly challenge the state's criminal abortion ban and repeal the archaic law. Republicans in the Legislature gaveled out of the special session without consideration or debate.

Earlier this year, in January, the governor and legislative Democrats [announced a new effort](#) to

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put an advisory referendum on the April 2023 ballot, asking voters if Wisconsin should repeal the state's criminal abortion ban and restore the constitutional rights guaranteed for nearly 50 years under

*Roe*

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In March 2023, Gov. Evers again [joined](#) legislative Democrats to reintroduce legislation to repeal Wisconsin's 1849-era criminal abortion ban—a ban that was passed before the Civil War and before women had the right to vote and that prohibits nearly all abortions without exceptions for rape and incest. The bill, [Assembly Bill 218](#), would clearly repeal Wisconsin's criminal abortion ban, removing this archaic statute from our books and effectively reverting abortion access in Wisconsin to what it was on June 23, 2022, the day before the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in

*Dobbs*

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