Abortion is health care, and a key part of individuals’ liberty, equality, and economic security. Everyone, no matter where they live or their financial means, deserves access to abortion when they need it. But anti-abortion politicians are taking away our right to abortion. In 2019 alone, state legislators introduced over 400 new abortion restrictions, including several near total – and blatantly unconstitutional – bans on abortion.

**STATE LAWS MEANT TO TAKE AWAY THE RIGHT TO ABORTION**

This year, state lawmakers in seven states passed laws that would prohibit nearly all abortions:

- **Alabama** state legislators passed a near total ban on abortion throughout pregnancy, with only the most narrow exceptions. The bill would send doctors to jail for up to 99 years for providing abortion care.  

- Several states – including **Georgia**, **Kentucky**, **Louisiana**, **Mississippi**, and **Ohio** – passed laws that prohibit abortion, with limited exceptions, as early as six weeks into pregnancy, before most people know they are pregnant.

- **Missouri** passed an omnibus anti-abortion bill that includes a prohibition on abortion, with limited exceptions, as early as eight weeks into pregnancy.

- Another three states, **Arkansas**, **Kentucky**, and **Missouri**, passed near total bans on abortion that would go into effect if Roe v. Wade were overturned.

While those near total bans on abortion have dominated the headlines, state lawmakers also passed numerous other abortion restrictions that have the same end goal: to eliminate access to abortion. These include:

- Bans on a particular method of abortion
- Bans at a particular point in pregnancy
- Bans based on the reason a person has decided to have an abortion
- Clinic closure laws that force abortion providers to comply with medically unnecessary and burdensome facility and credentialing requirements

**RESPONDING TO THESE ATTACKS AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL**

Federal lawmakers can step in to ensure that the constitutional right to abortion is a reality for everyone. There are currently two federal bills that would most directly respond to the attacks on abortion and ensure people can access abortion no matter where they live or how much money they make:

- The **Women’s Health Protection Act**, reintroduced this year by Senators Blumenthal (D-CT) and Baldwin (D-WI) and Representatives Chu (D-CA), Frankel (D-FL), and Fudge (D-OH), would create a federal safeguard against these state-level abortion bans and restrictions.

- The **EACH Woman Act**, led by Senator Duckworth (D-IL) and Representatives Lee (D-CA), Schakowsky (D-IL) and DeGette (D-CO), would restore insurance coverage of abortion to those who rely on Medicaid or other federal programs for health coverage and allow private insurers to provide abortion coverage without political interference.
1 State Policy Updates, Guttmacher Institute (June 1, 2019), https://www.guttmacher.org/state-policy
2 H.B. 314, 2019 Leg., Reg. Sess. (Ala. 2019). The bill was scheduled to take effect in November, but Alabama abortion providers filed a lawsuit in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama, to block enforcement of the law.