



Keep Abortion Safe and Legal in New Mexico

HB 51: Decriminalize Abortion

Sponsored by Reps. Joanne Ferrary, Georgene Louis, Deborah Armstrong, Eliseo Alcon, and Sen. Linda Lopez

New Mexico is one of nine states that still has an unconstitutional, pre-Roe v. Wade statute on the books that criminalizes abortion in almost all circumstances. If Roe v. Wade falls, this law could become enforceable again, making abortion a crime and jeopardizing access to safe and legal care in New Mexico.

We must come together to repeal this outdated law.

A vote in support of HB 51 to Keep Abortion Safe and Legal would:

- ✓ *Repeal* an outdated statute that criminalizes healthcare providers working in abortion care and puts people seeking an abortion at risk.
- ✓ *Protect* the personal decision making of New Mexican women and families.
- ✓ *Affirm* that reproductive healthcare, including abortion, is not a crime.

Reproductive healthcare is NOT a crime

- Every New Mexican deserves access to *safe and legal healthcare* without fear or penalty.
- Healthcare providers should not be criminally charged for providing care that people need.

New Mexicans support abortion access

- New Mexican communities hold diverse personal and religious beliefs, including differing views about abortion. 77% of rural New Mexicans agreed that they could hold their own moral views about abortion and still trust a woman and her family to make decisions about abortion for themselves, including 79% of Catholics.¹
- 79% of rural New Mexicans surveyed agree with the following statement: “*Whether due to the loss of pregnancy, abortion care, or prenatal care, women deserve to be supported and respected and not shamed when seeking reproductive healthcare.*”
- Outdated and dangerously restrictive laws like the one still on the books in New Mexico take complex, personal decisions away from New Mexico women and families and restrict access to safe care.

Keeping abortion legal ensures safety

- **Medical care is highly regulated.** We don’t need a criminal law that singles out abortion to ensure that abortion care is provided safely and according to standards of care.
- Healthcare providers, including abortion providers, prioritize patient safety. They already follow state and federal regulations, licensing requirements, and constantly update training and standards to deliver the highest quality, safe care, and strict penalties are in place to ensure that no person can deliver medical care without an appropriate license and training.
- Medical experts and providers agree that laws restricting abortion access harm patients. Respected medical organizations such as the American Medical Association (AMA) and the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists (ACOG) support safe abortion access.

PROTECT ABORTION ACCESS IN NM. SUPPORT HB 51

¹ *Attitudes toward Reproductive Health Policy Among Rural New Mexicans*, conducted by Latino Decisions; January 2017 mixed mode (landline/cell/web) survey of over 1,700 New Mexican adults.

Respect NM Women is a movement of women, families, people of faith, medical providers, and community-based organizations united in support of New Mexico women and their reproductive health decisions.

American Association of University Women New Mexico (AAUW)
American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico (ACLU NM)
Equality New Mexico (EQNM)
Girls Inc. of Santa Fe
Indigenous Women Rising
League of Women Voters of New Mexico
National Organization for Women (NOW) Santa Fe Chapter
New Mexico Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice (NM RCRC)
New Mexico Women's Agenda
Planned Parenthood New Mexico
ProgressNow New Mexico
Southwest Women's Law Center
Strong Families New Mexico
Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP)
Young Women United