



Congresswoman Cori Bush & Senator Tina Smith Protecting Access to Medication Abortion Act

According to the Guttmacher Institute, medication abortion accounts for over half of all abortion care in the United States.¹ Medication abortion is typically delivered through a two-dose regimen of mifepristone and misoprostol. This method was approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 2000 and is considered safe and effective up to 10 weeks gestation.

In the more than two decades since its approval, the evidence has shown that mifepristone can safely be prescribed to patients without an in-person appointment, and it is safe and effective for people to take in their own homes. People can access medication abortion through certified pharmacies, including mail-order pharmacies.²

Right now, extremist anti-abortion lawmakers are attacking access to medication abortion, and even going so far as to criminalize it. States have imposed restrictions that contradict scientific evidence by requiring health care providers to be physically present when administering the drug to a patient, prohibiting medication abortion before 10 weeks gestation, or only allowing physicians – and not other health care professionals – to administer medication abortion.³ Access to medication abortion is as much an issue of racial justice as it is health care.

Moreover, many anti-abortion laws include bans on the mailing of medication abortion pills and some even seek to block efforts for patients in states with abortion bans from leaving their home state to receive this care.⁴ States with abortion bans or extreme abortion restrictions are home to 39 percent of the total US population, but 45 percent of Black women and girls under age 55.⁵ Abortion bans and restrictions on reproductive health disproportionately harm Black people, and could have severe or deadly consequences on maternal and infant health. With the recent Supreme Court ruling overturning *Roe v. Wade*, it is critical that the federal government use every tool available to protect access to medication abortion.

In response to the *Dobbs* decision overturning the constitutional right to abortion care, Congresswoman Cori Bush and Senator Tina Smith introduced the **Protecting Access to Medication Abortion Act** to codify the current mifepristone Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) so that people seeking abortion care can always access medication abortion through telehealth and certified pharmacies, including mail-order pharmacies.

Abortion care is health care – and Congresswoman Bush and Senator Smith's bill is a critical step in safeguarding access to essential health care services, including the protection of safe and effective reproductive health care.

¹ <https://www.guttmacher.org/article/2022/02/medication-abortion-now-accounts-more-half-all-us-abortions>
² [https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/fact-sheet/the-availability-and-use-of-medication-abortion/#:~:text=Medication%20abortion%20is%20a%20safe,than%200.001%20percent%20\(0.00064%25\)](https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/fact-sheet/the-availability-and-use-of-medication-abortion/#:~:text=Medication%20abortion%20is%20a%20safe,than%200.001%20percent%20(0.00064%25))

³ <https://www.guttmacher.org/state-policy/explore/medication-abortion>

⁴ <https://www.guttmacher.org/article/2022/02/medication-abortion-now-accounts-more-half-all-us-abortions>

⁵ <https://www.vox.com/2022/6/29/23187002/black-women-abortion-access-roe>