

# BARELY STITCHED TOGETHER



## Attacks on Bodily Autonomy Have Created a Patchwork of Care

### rePROs Fight Back's Annual Report Card Highlights the Lack of Sexual and Reproductive Freedom: U.S. Gets an "F." Arkansas Is One of 25 States Receiving a Failing Grade.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, rePROs Fight Back released its 14th annual *50-State Report Card on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights*. The report card tracks multiple indicators of sexual and reproductive health and rights, including access to family planning, sex education, abortion services, and gender-affirming care. Sexual and reproductive rights have been under unrelenting attack for the last 15 years, creating a patchwork of policies that renders a person's access to sexual and reproductive health care dependent on where they live. The Trump administration came into office with an anti-rights playbook and have spent the past year turning it into reality. The administration launched attacks on a wide range of sexual and reproductive rights, exacerbating the human rights crisis around sexual and reproductive health, and fraying the already-strained patchwork of care. Due to these direct attacks on bodily autonomy and more, the U.S. again received a failing grade.

Jennie Wetter, Director of rePROs Fight Back, declared, "The Trump administration had sexual and reproductive rights, transgender rights, and DEI squarely in their cross hairs from day one. Their cruel anti-rights focus has left those who are most vulnerable without access to care. But the administration isn't the only one attacking bodily autonomy. Attacks on bodily autonomy at the state level have created a crisis in this country, and the impacts are never felt equally among those who are already marginalized, such as BIPOC, people with low-incomes, young people, those with disabilities, the LGBTQ+ community, and those at multiple intersections of these identities. Unfortunately, the administration's and anti-right legislatures' attacks on bodily autonomy show no signs of stopping."

### In this year's report card, Arkansas received an "F." It was one of 25 states awarded an "F."

#### Methodology

Using 11 criteria, the rePROs report card rated each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia on three broad indicators relating to reproductive health and rights: prevention, affordability, and access. The criteria include elements of reproductive health such as: sex education, minors' access to birth control, access to emergency contraception in the emergency room, Medicaid expansion—including family planning expansion—abortion policy, and more. Based on their composite scores of 0-100, each state received a "core" grade of "A," "B," "C," "D," or "F." Some states received an additional "plus" or "minus" for factors not reflected in the core grade.

#### Arkansas' Grade

Arkansas received an "F" this year. Most notably, Arkansas received poor marks for:

Arkansas has completely banned abortion with very limited exceptions, which prevents someone from obtaining a legal abortion in Arkansas.

Arkansas does not mandate sex education. If sex education is taught, it must include information on healthy relationships.

Arkansas currently does not offer an expansion for family planning services to the Medicaid plan.

Arkansas received a "minus" because state family planning funds are blocked from going to abortion providers or entities that contract with or are affiliated with abortion providers.

#### State Grades

Five states received an "A" in this year's report: California, New Mexico, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington. Twenty-five states received a failing grade: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

#### The National Grade

For the seventh year in a row, the U.S. as a whole received an "F." The fallout from attacks on Title X and the ongoing assault on Medicaid were the major reasons for this grade.

## Title X

Title X, for the last 50 years, has been the nation's only federal program providing no-cost and low-cost birth control and other reproductive health services such as: cervical and breast cancer screenings, family planning education, basic infertility services, STI testing and treatment, and wellness exams for people with low incomes. In April, the Trump administration withheld funding from one in five Title X grantees. While eventually much of that funding was restored, the unexpected loss of funding did months of harm with hundreds of thousands of patients unable to access Title X services.

## Medicaid

The "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" made major changes to Medicaid that will have profound impacts on health care access including

sexual and reproductive health care. Among the major changes, the law slashes \$990 billion in Medicaid funding over the next decade, eliminating coverage for over 10 million people. It blocks Planned Parenthood from receiving Medicaid funding, preventing people on Medicaid from seeing a trusted provider and likely forcing hundreds of clinics to close. The law also puts rural hospitals at risk, creating larger gaps in the patchwork of care.

## Looking Ahead

In releasing this year's report card, Wetter warned that, "The administration is not done shredding the patchwork of care around sexual and reproductive health. They are committed to chipping away at people's access to abortion care, including medication abortion and during

emergencies, as well as access to birth control and more. They have been especially cruelly focused in their unrelenting attacks on the transgender community, in particular, trying to block young trans people from accessing life-saving health care. This administration is unwaveringly committed to an anti-rights agenda, which means our fight is going to be long and hard. We must be as relentless as they are in our commitment to a world where all our rights are protected and can be freely exercised. We must continue to stand together and not let them tear us apart because only together can we win the future we want with reproductive freedom for all."



## ARKANSAS | F- 32.5 / 100 | BREAKDOWN OF SCORES

### PREVENTION

#### Sex Education 0 / 20

Arkansas does not mandate sex education. If sex education is taught, it must include information on healthy relationships.

#### Access to Emergency Contraception 2.5 / 5

Arkansas requires emergency rooms to provide information about emergency contraception but does not require they dispense it to sexual assault victims.

#### Minors' Access to Contraception 5 / 5

Arkansas explicitly allows all minors to consent to contraceptive services.

### AFFORDABILITY

#### Medicaid Expansion 15 / 15

Arkansas has expanded its Medicaid program, which includes maternal and reproductive health care, under the Affordable Care Act.

#### Medicaid Family Planning Expansions 0 / 10

Arkansas currently does not offer an expansion for family planning services to the Medicaid plan.

#### Medicaid Maternal Health Expansion 0 / 5

Arkansas has not expanded its Medicaid postpartum coverage to 12 months.

#### Insurance Coverage of Abortion 0 / 5

Arkansas restricts abortion coverage in private insurance plans by prohibiting insurance plans sold on state Marketplaces from covering abortion (with some exceptions).

### ACCESS

#### Abortion Restrictions 0 / 25

Arkansas has completely banned abortion with very limited exceptions, which prevents someone from obtaining a legal abortion in Arkansas.

#### Gender-Affirming Care Restrictions 10 / 10

Arkansas has banned best practice medication and surgical care for transgender youth, but a federal judge has permanently blocked it from being enforced.



For the complete report card and additional information, please visit: <https://reportcard.reprosfightback.com/>

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