

Suggested Actions

Vital Signs Ministries' Letter-writing Parties (September 2023)

Targets # 1 and # 2

Senators passed a bill May 19 that bans “gender-altering” surgeries for minors and enacts a 12-week ban on abortion in Nebraska.

LB574, sponsored by Omaha Sen. Kathleen Kauth, creates the **Let Them Grow Act** and the **Preborn Child Protection Act**.

Beginning Oct. 1, 2023, the Let Them Grow Act prohibits physicians from performing gender-altering surgical procedures on individuals under age 19. The bill grants the state’s chief medical officer the authority to establish regulations regarding non-surgical gender-altering procedures for minors in Nebraska, including the use of hormone therapy and puberty blockers.

At minimum, the regulations must require that a health care practitioner may prescribe approved puberty-blocking drugs and/or cross-sex hormones for a patient younger than 19 only if the individual has a “long-lasting and intense pattern of gender nonconformity or gender dysphoria” that began or worsened at the start of puberty.

Other minimum requirements include a minimum number of gender-identity focused therapeutic hours and a waiting period between the time a health care practitioner obtains informed patient consent and the prescribing of hormone therapy and puberty blockers.

A physician who knowingly violates the bill’s provisions will be subject to review by the state’s medical licensing board. An individual who received a gender-altering procedure while under the age of 19, or their parent or guardian, could bring a civil action against the physician within two years of discovery.

The bill prohibits the distribution or use of state funds for any entity, organization or individual that provides gender-altering surgery for minors in Nebraska.

Also included in LB574 is the **Preborn Child Protection Act**, which narrows Nebraska’s current 20-week post-fertilization abortion ban to instead ban the procedure after the gestational age of 12 weeks. Gestational age calculates a pregnancy from the first day of a pregnant individual’s last menstrual cycle rather than from the moment of fertilization.

The act includes exceptions for sexual assault, incest and medical emergencies but does not include exceptions for fetal anomalies.

The following are excluded from the definition of an abortion under the bill:

- removal of an ectopic pregnancy;
- removal of the remains of an unborn child who already has died;
- an act done with the intention of saving the life or preserving the health of the unborn child

- termination or loss of life of an unborn child who is not being carried inside an individual's body during the practice of in vitro fertilization or other assisted reproductive technology.

Health care providers who violate the bill's provisions may be subject to removal of their license to practice medicine.

After two hours of discussion on final reading regarding a motion to return the bill to select file for consideration of a specific amendment, Kauth offered a motion to invoke cloture, which ends debate and forces a vote on the bill. The motion was adopted 33-15. Thirty-three votes were needed.

LB574 then passed on a vote of 33-15 and takes effect immediately.

Target # 3 -- School Choice!

LB 753 creates a tax credit for private donations to nonprofit scholarship-granting organizations, which then award scholarships to low-income and working-class families to send their children to the school of their choice.

Similar tax credit scholarship programs exist in at least 18 other states. Governor Pillen, who has championed LB 753 and provided testimony in support at the bill's committee hearing, will now have the opportunity to sign the bill into law.

Nebraska Family Alliance released the following statement celebrating the final advancement of the bill. "Today is an important, hard-fought victory for school choice in Nebraska. LB 753 puts power back into the hands of parents and will help more families have the choice to send their child to the school that best meets their needs and aligns with their values.

We are thankful for Senator Linehan's dedication and commitment to creating more freedom and choice in education and look forward to Governor Pillen signing our state's first school choice bill into law."

CAPITOL MAILING ADDRESS

Senator -----

District # ----- State Capitol

PO Box 94604

Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

Aguilar, Raymond (District 35) Grand
Island (Excused and didn't vote on 753)
Albrecht, Joni (17) Thurston
Arch, John (14) La Vista
Armendariz, Christy (18) Omaha
Ballard, Beau (21) Lincoln
Bosn, Carolyn (25) Lincoln
Bostelman, Bruce (23) Brainard
Brandt, Tom (32) Plymouth
(Present but didn't vote on 753)
Brewer, Tom (43) Gordon
Briese, Tom (41) Albion
Clements, Robert (2) Elmwood
DeKay, Barry (40) Niobrara
Dorn, Myron (30) Adams
Dover, Robert (19) Norfolk
Erdman, Steve (47) Bayard
Halloran, Steve (33) Hastings
Hansen, Ben (16) Blair
Hardin, Brian (48) Gering
Holdcroft, Rick (36) Bellevue
Hughes, Jana (24) Seward
Ibach, Teresa (44) Sumner
Jacobson, Mike (42) North Platte
Kauth, Kathleen (31) Omaha
Linehan, Lou Ann (39) Elkhorn
Lippincott, Loren (34) Central City
Lowe, John (37) Kearney
McDonnell, Mike (5) Omaha
Moser, Mike (22) Columbus
Murman, Dave (38) Glenvil

Riepe, Merv (12) Ralston
Sanders, Rita (45) Bellevue
Slama, Julie (1) Sterling
von Gillern, R. Brad (4) Elkhorn

Those not with us:

* Blood, Carol (District 3)
* Conrad, Danielle (46)
* Fredrickson, John (20)
* Vargas, Tony (7)
(Didn't vote on 753)
* Bostar, Eliot (29)
* Day, Jen (49)
* Hunt, Megan (8)
* Walz, Lynne (15)
* Cavanaugh, John (9)
* DeBoer, Wendy (10)
* McKinney, Terrell (11)
(Voted yes on 753)
* Wishart, Anna (27)
* Cavanaugh, Machaela (6)
* Dungan, George (26)
* Raybould, Jane (28)
(Didn't vote on 753)

Wayne, Justin (13)
(Didn't vote on 574)
(Voted yes on 753)

Target # 4

Governor Pillen Establishes Women's Bill of Rights by Executive Order

LINCOLN, NE – Today, Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen signed an Executive Order establishing the Women's Bill of Rights. Gov. Pillen is the second U.S. Governor to sign such an order, declaring the biological definition of male and female.

“It is common sense that men do not belong in women's only spaces,” said Governor Pillen. “As Governor, it is my duty to protect our kids and women's athletics, which means providing single-sex spaces for women's sports, bathrooms, and changing rooms.”

The executive order establishes, for purposes of state government:

A person's biological sex is defined at birth

The reasons for defining a person's biological sex

Establishes guidelines for reporting of data

This executive order goes into effect immediately.

Target #5 -- The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act

In the 117th Congress, the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA) passed the House of Representatives (H.R.1065) with bipartisan support. In December, 2022, it was signed into law through HR 2617, Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, on December 29, 2022.

The PWFA was a mother-affirming law requiring employers with 15 or more employees to make “reasonable accommodations to the known limitations related to the pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions.” However, on August 11, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) published a proposed rule to implement the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA) and hijacked the original intent of the bipartisan PWFA, which established workplace protections for pregnant women and was not intended by Congress to include abortion.

In an act of executive overreach, the proposed rule uses the PWFA to establish a nationwide requirement that employers with 15 or more employees enable employees to obtain elective abortion, including providing paid or unpaid leave. This mandate also applies to employers in states with protective pro-life laws.

Tell the EEOC in your own words:

- The bipartisan Pregnant Workers Fairness Act was passed to protect pregnant women and was not intended by Congress to include abortion.
- This proposed rule may require pro-life employers and employers of any kind to provide paid leave for elective abortion.
- The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act is meant to protect expectant mothers, not to promote abortion.