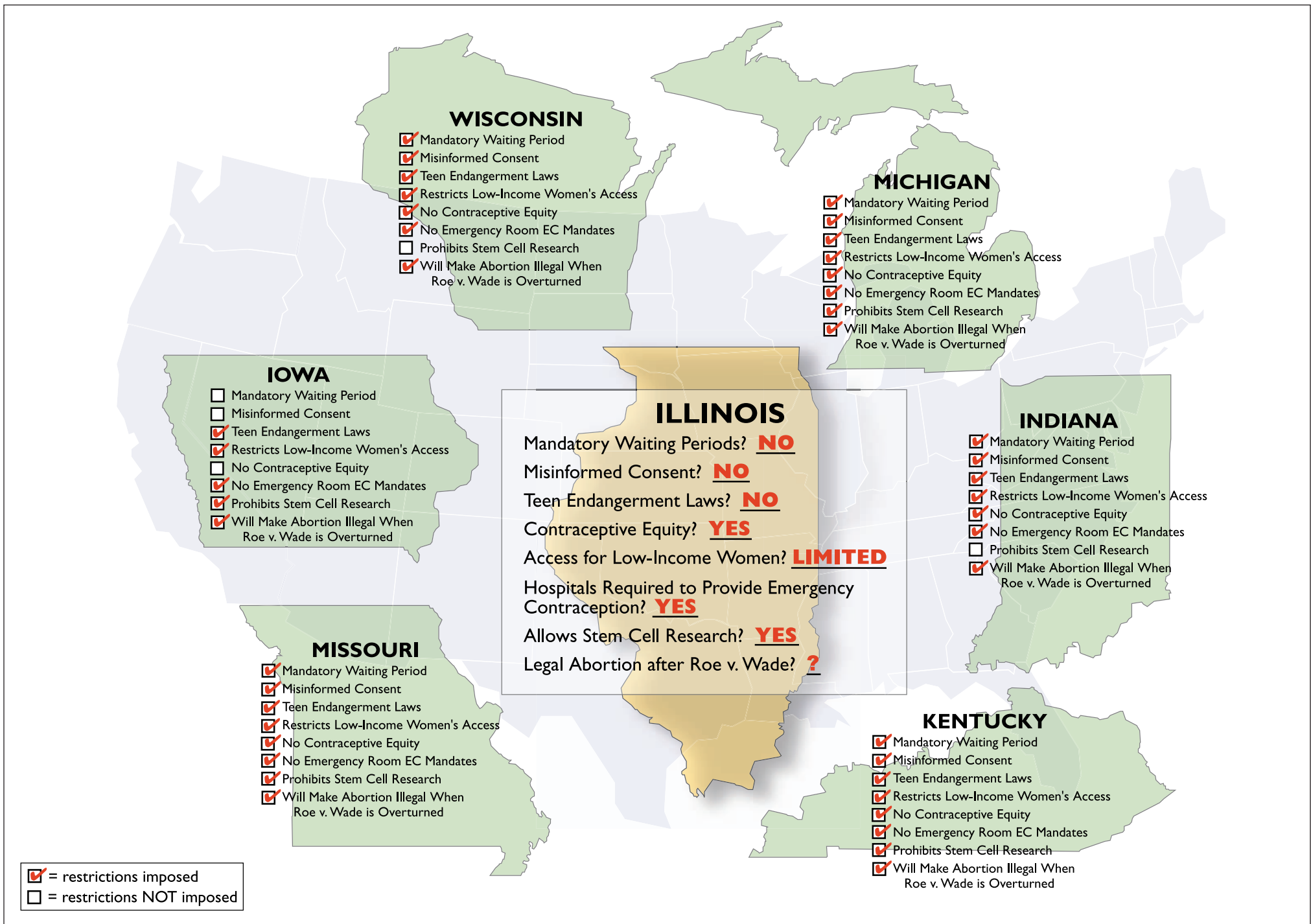


# State of Choice Between the Coasts





# PERSONAL PAC

*It's Pro-Choice or No Choice*

Millions of American women each year are adversely impacted by assaults on abortion rights that are not intended to help women obtain reproductive care, but rather, put women's health and lives at risk with the imposition of dangerous restrictions on access. Consider that 33% of all American women will have an abortion in their lifetime and you can begin to comprehend the gravity of the attack on women's health care and fundamental dignity by those who advocate restrictions on abortion.

## **24-48 Hour Mandatory Waiting Period**

Mandatory waiting periods, required only for abortion and no other medical procedure, require a woman to wait 24 or 48 hours after signing a consent form before returning for the procedure. Having to travel long distances twice and miss work or school twice poses a significant obstacle to obtaining an abortion for rural, young and low income women.

## **Misinformed Consent**

Misinformed consent is a state mandated lecture of anti-abortion propaganda that must be given to a woman seeking an abortion. The lecture completely distorts the nature of the procedure, the alternatives and the side effects. Receiving this lecture is often humiliating for the woman who is already facing a difficult decision. Much of the information given is not medically factual and is meant solely to dissuade her from having an abortion.

## **Teen Endangerment Laws**

Teen endangerment laws require teenagers to get consent from their parents or to give them notice prior to the abortion. When you are a teenage girl these two options are hardly distinguishable. Teens from homes with healthy communication often involve an adult family member in the abortion decision. However, notice and consent laws have had horrifying consequences for teens from homes where there is violence, abuse, drug addiction, alcoholism, where there is no parent even present, as well as for teens from stable homes who nonetheless attempt to self-induce abortion rather than tell a parent about the pregnancy. Indiana requires the teen of divorced parents to obtain consent from both parents even if they are not in regular contact. Indiana is choosing to punish the teen for her parents' divorce. Some states offer a judicial by-pass, but this option is a cruel hoax for an already fragile teen. Historically, some teens are so frightened they choose to have an illegal abortion. Additionally, some teens' parents try to force a teenager to have an abortion against her will. This is the nightmare brought on by such laws, for the teen and the health care provider.

## **Restricts Low-Income Women's Access**

Low-income women have restricted access because states prohibit public funding for abortion for women eligible for state medical assistance for general health care, unless the abortion is necessary to preserve the life of the woman. There are variations of this law that would allow funding if the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest or if it would cause major harm to the health of the woman. These restrictions leave little choice for women who cannot afford an abortion. Some must forego paying rent and utilities and some desperate women even turn to drugs and prostitution to pay for the abortion.

## **Emergency Contraception Requires a Doctors Prescription**

Emergency contraception, a high dose of birth control stops conception from occurring. After failed birth control methods or unprotected sex a woman can take emergency contraception. This would reduce her chances of becoming pregnant by 89% when taken within 72 hours of unprotected sex. Requiring a doctor's prescription is not the most effective way to help prevent unintended pregnancy. If a woman needs emergency contraception after a Friday or Saturday night she would have to wait, and hopefully get an appointment, to see her doctor on Monday putting her outside of the 72 hour period. Washington and Maine have reduced their teenage pregnancy and abortion rate by 40% by not requiring a doctor's prescription for emergency contraception.

## **No Contraceptive Equity**

These states do not require insurance companies to cover prescription contraceptives. These same insurance plans cover other prescriptions, such as Viagra. With a contraceptive equity law, insurance companies that provide prescription coverage are required to cover FDA approved contraceptive prescriptions.

## **No Emergency Room EC Mandates**

These states do not have to provide sexual assault survivors with emergency contraception nor do they have to provide information about how to get emergency contraception. Most women are unaware of emergency contraception and would not know that option is available following a sexual assault. Not providing EC to women in the hospital emergency room adds gross insult to horrible injury.

## **Prohibits Stem Cell Research**

The anti-abortion movement has made a top political priority of preventing stem cell research in as many states as possible. They do so in order to establish as law that life begins at conception and any use of post conception material be treated as murder and a felony. Anti-abortion opposition to stem cell research, like opposition to abortion, is based solely on extremely narrow religious dogma and not science or rational public policy.

## **When Roe v. Wade Is Overturned**

When Roe v. Wade is overturned, approximately 40 states now have state assemblies that would criminalize nearly all abortions immediately. Illinois is the ONLY state between the two coasts that has elected officials who would likely keep abortion legal. However, we are always just one election away from an anti-choice Governor, anti-choice Attorney General and an anti-choice State House and State Senate.