



April 2020

## “Right to Life” during COVID-19 Pandemic

*Listed below is a timeline of news articles that were printed from March 24—April 14. We’re not only in a pandemic war with COVID-19, but we’re also in a war to preserve life of the unborn. This virus has taken so many lives, but in the midst of it, so many lives are being saved. Please take the time to read the following account of news articles.*

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 24, 2020

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T E X A S  
**Alliance for Life**  
*Changing Hearts. Saving Lives Since 1988*

**AUSTIN, TX** — On Sunday, **March 22, 2020**, Governor Greg Abbott issued an Executive Order to prevent a shortage of hospital capacity or personal protective equipment which would hinder efforts to cope with the COVID-19 disaster. That executive order states that “all licensed health care professionals and all licensed health care facilities shall postpone all surgeries and procedures that are not immediately medically necessary to correct a serious medical condition of, or to preserve the life of, a patient who without immediate performance of the surgery or procedure would be at risk for serious adverse medical consequences or death...” through April 21. On Monday, March 23, 2020, Attorney General Ken Paxton’s subsequent statement clarified that order includes elective abortions.

The following statement is attributed to our Executive Director Joe Pojman, Ph.D.:

“With the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases projected to rise, healthcare providers’ highest priority must be treating patients who test positive and others whose lives are at risk.

Texas abortion providers must recognize the severity of this crisis. Doing otherwise puts them dangerously out of touch with the reality of what is happening, communicates the message that they are above the Governor’s Executive Order, and puts innocent victims of the virus at risk — patients who need immediate life-saving procedures and treatment for this virus.

We are tracking the compliance of abortion providers statewide. We ask that any who hear or know of abortions performed at abortion facilities anywhere in Texas during this time, please contact us and send any documentation you have such as parking lot photos, tweets, screenshots of websites, etc. to [info@TexasAllianceforLife.org](mailto:info@TexasAllianceforLife.org).

We are grateful for legislators and leaders in the state of Texas who are tirelessly working toward eradicating the coronavirus pandemic in our state.”

**Update:** On Monday, **March 30, 2020**, federal judges temporarily blocked efforts in Texas and Alabama to ban abortions during the coronavirus pandemic, handing Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers a victory as clinics across the U.S. filed lawsuits to stop states from trying to shutter them during the outbreak.

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**By The Associated Press**

Posted **Apr 7, 2020** at 4:07 PM Updated Apr 7, 2020 at 4:09 PM

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) " A federal appeals court sided Tuesday with Texas in allowing it to ban most abortions while the state is under an emergency order that limits non-essential surgeries during the coronavirus pandemic.

A panel of judges at the New Orleans-based Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals overturned a decision by a lower court that blocked the ban last week. The ruling allows the ban to stay in place.

Texas Republican Gov. Greg Abbott last month ordered hospitals to cancel 'non-essential' surgeries in order to free up hospital space and supplies that might be needed for coronavirus patients and doctors.

Republican Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton then said the order would cover any abortions except for those needed to protect the health safety of the mother. Planned Parenthood and other abortion rights groups then sued to remove abortion from the procedures that should be delayed.

U.S. District Judge Lee Yeakel ruled last week that the 'Supreme Court has spoken clearly' on a woman's right to terminate a pregnancy and ruled 'there can be no outright ban on such a procedure.'

Texas immediately appealed. The appeal court's 2-1 ruling noted 'the escalating spread of COVID-19, and the state's critical interest in protecting the public health.'

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**By The Associated Press**

Posted **Apr 10, 2020** at 7:31 PM Updated Apr 10, 2020 at 7:32 PM

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) " A federal appeals court on Friday partially rescinded a lower-court order that had largely blocked the enforcement of an abortion ban in Texas during the coronavirus pandemic.

By a 2-1 vote, the three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld enforcement of an executive order by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott that includes abortion among non-essential medical procedures banned during the state of emergency.

However, the appeals court allowed the procedure to go ahead if delays would place the pregnancy beyond the 22-week state cutoff for abortions.

The ruling was agreed to by Judges Jennifer Walker Elrod, an appointee of President George W. Bush, and Kyle Duncan, an appointee of President Donald Trump. Judge James L. Dennis, an appointee of President Bill Clinton, dissented and opposed any stay of the lower-court order.

COVID-19 is the illness caused by the new coronavirus. For most people, the virus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

In a statement, Center for Reproductive Rights President Nancy Northrup said the appeals court "is unjustifiably forcing women to wait until the eleventh hour to get the time-sensitive, essential healthcare that they are constitutionally guaranteed. We will pursue all legal options to ensure no women are left behind.'

U.S. District Judge Lee Yeakel of Austin had blocked the total ban in Abbott's executive order last week, but the appeals court overturned that order when the state appealed. Planned Parenthood and other women's clinics then asked the Austin judge to allow non-surgical abortions by medication or abortions if delay would take a pregnancy beyond the 22-week state legal barrier. Yeakel granted that request Thursday, but the state appealed immediately again.

Abbott's original March 22 order was to expire April 21 but can be extended. Similar legal fights are being waged in Alabama, Ohio, Oklahoma and Iowa.

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**By The Associated Press**

Posted **Apr 11, 2020** at 6:28 PM Updated Apr 11, 2020 at 7:44 PM

WASHINGTON (AP) " Abortion clinics in Texas on Saturday asked the Supreme Court to step in to allow certain abortions to continue

during the coronavirus pandemic.

The clinics filed an emergency motion asking the justices to overturn a lower-court order and allow abortions when they can be performed using medication.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott issued an executive order last month that bars non-essential medical procedures so that medical resources can go to treating coronavirus patients. Texas' attorney general has said that providing abortions other than for an immediate medical emergency would violate the order.

A three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Friday allowed abortions to proceed in cases where a woman would be beyond 22 weeks pregnant, the legal limit for abortions in Texas, on April 22, the day after the governor's order barring non-essential medical procedures is set to expire.

But the appeals court order blocked for now medication abortions, which are allowed in Texas during the first 10 weeks of pregnancy. In a medication abortion a woman takes one pill at a clinic and then takes a second pill 24 to 48 hours later, typically at home. The clinics have argued that medication abortions do not require personal protective equipment like masks, gloves and gowns that might be needed for coronavirus patients. Similar legal fights over abortions during the pandemic are ongoing in Alabama, Ohio and Oklahoma.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 14, 2020**

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Austin, TX -- Yesterday evening the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals issued an order allowing the performance of drug-induced abortions in the 15 abortion facilities that sued Governor Greg Abbott over his Executive Order GA 09 calling for all medical providers, not just abortion providers, to delay non-emergency surgeries and medical procedures until April 22. The Court's order does not apply to the 10 abortion facilities who are not plaintiffs, meaning those facilities must continue to follow the Executive Order.

The following statement can be attributed to Texas Alliance for Life's Executive Director Joe Pojman, Ph.D.:

We are disappointed by the Court's latest action. The most recent order fails to recognize the danger abortion providers pose to the public by refusing to comply with Governor Abbott's executive order in the same way other providers of non-immediately medically necessary surgeries and procedures have done.

Drug-induced abortions, abortions that use the RU-486 abortion pill, have as much as a 20% complication rate according to the best data available. Many complications require admittance into a hospital emergency department, which should be kept open for patients fighting COVID-19.

Even under the best of circumstances, doctors will personally examine the woman or girl at least twice with a transvaginal ultrasound, requiring personal protective equipment badly needed to find the coronavirus. The first ultrasound occurs prior to when the abortion begins and the second occurs during the follow-up visit no later than 14 days after the administration of the first drug.

We note that the best data available indicate a 20% complication rate associated with medication abortion, more than three times greater than complications associated with surgical abortion, which is 5.6%. Six percent of medication abortions result in a surgical abortion, requiring even more PPE.

The 2009 peer-reviewed study, "Immediate Complications After Medical Compared With Surgical Termination of Pregnancy," involving more than 42,000 patients was published in *Obstetrics and Gynecology*.

The study found: "The overall incidence of adverse events was fourfold higher in the medical compared with surgical abortion cohort (20.0% compared with 5.6%,  $P < .001$ ). Hemorrhage (15.6% compared with 2.1%,  $P < .001$ ) and incomplete abortion (6.7% compared with 1.6%,  $P < .001$ ) were more common after medical abortion. The rate of surgical (re)evacuation was 5.9% after medical abortion and 1.8% after surgical abortion ( $P < .001$ )."

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*Please pray for the unborn to be protected.*

*These articles were pulled from Texas Alliance for Life and The Statesman websites.*

Many thanks to Delila Mancha, a Wesley nurse in our community, and to the congregation at First United Methodist Church in Bastrop. They held a diaper drive for BPRC and collected over 3000 diapers. WOW!

You are blessing so many!



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Dear Friends of BPRC,

We want to thank all of you who support us with your prayers, your service and your monetary contributions. This time is hard for all of us, and we appreciate you so much and are keeping you in our prayers.

BPRC is currently closed to help prevent the spread of Covid-19 and to protect and care for our employees, volunteers, and our clients.

We are checking messages and email. If you know of anyone needing diapers, clothing or formula during this time, please refer them to us.

They can call 512-409-3400 and leave a message or contact us by email at [admin@bastropprc.org](mailto:admin@bastropprc.org).

May God bless you and keep you safe,  
Bastrop Pregnancy Resource Center

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