

# RIGHT TO KNOW COLORADO

## NO on 79

### FAQ's

#### **How significant an issue are late abortions in Colorado and what impact will Initiative 79 have?**

- Late abortions are common in Colorado. More than [10% of abortions](#) occur in the second trimester or later. Between [3.2%-3.4% of abortions](#) occur at, or after, the time of fetal viability which is 21 weeks – when the baby could survive if born prematurely. There were [486 late abortions in 2022 and 468 in 2023](#) according to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)
- Based on research published by Boulder Colorado [Pro-Choice OBGYN](#), Dr. Warren Hern, 70% of late abortions are performed on *healthy women with healthy babies*. This translates into at least 350 abortions of healthy babies.
- If the amendment passes, Colorado legislators will be unable to put reasonable restrictions on late abortions performed on healthy women with healthy babies.
- These numbers are conservative estimates. The [Guttmacher Institute's Monthly Abortion Provision Study](#) suggests that there were 71% more abortions (25,200) in Colorado in 2023 than what was reflected in the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment statistics.

**Parental notification for minor children is the only requirement pertaining to abortion in Colorado. How would Initiative 79 change this?**

- Initiative 79 bans anything that “impedes” or “discriminates” against the right to access abortion. Abortion rights advocates have taken the position [that parental notification and/or parental consent](#) can be impediments to abortion access.
- If the amendment passes, our parental notification law will be a casualty. [35 states currently](#) have laws that guarantee that parents are notified and/or provide consent to an abortion performed on their minor daughter.
- Colorado will join the small minority of states that disregard fundamental parental notice requirements.

**Are abortion clinics regulated as other health care facilities are in Colorado to ensure the health and safety of women? If not, could prudent standards for abortion facilities be enacted in the future?**

- The CDPHE licenses, adjusts, and inspects thousands of health care facilities/agencies. This helps ensure the public health and safety of all Coloradans. The glaring exception is for second and third trimester abortion clinics which have no regulation under the CDPHE. Abortion clinics are not inspected, not licensed by the CDPHE, and there are not adequate regulations to ensure safety for women.
- [Second trimester abortions have a 10% complication rate and 1.7% life threatening complication rate.](#) The risk of a woman [dying from an abortion increases 38% for each additional week of gestation](#) beyond 8 weeks, and eventually exceeds the risk from natural childbirth.
- The abortion industry considers any regulations pertaining specifically [to abortion clinics as impeding access.](#)
- If the amendment passes, organizations such as American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists ([ACOG](#)) can oppose Colorado State Legislature from establishing standard public health and safety regulations for abortion clinics under the argument of [legislative interference.](#)

## **Are elective abortions covered by health insurance in Colorado and how will Initiative 79 shift the cost of coverage onto taxpayers?**

- Colorado is one of the few states [that mandates abortion coverage in private insurance plans without copays or coinsurance](#). Colorado does not afford the same benefit to women who choose to continue their pregnancies to full term. Women and their families may incur substantial prenatal care, birth care and post-partum care costs. The amendment does nothing to address this pregnancy equity issue.
- If the amendment passes, state taxpayers will be required to spend millions of dollars on elective abortions. The diversion of Medicaid money to pay for elective abortions may exacerbate the existing problem with inadequate reimbursement for pregnancy services which could result in [more maternity care deserts](#).
- [33 states currently prohibit](#) the use of tax dollars to pay for elective abortions through Medicaid. If the amendment passes, Colorado will join the minority that shifts funds from high priority services such as pregnancy care to elective abortions.

**For more information on the exact language of this initiative follow the link below:**

[2024 Colorado State Ballot Information Booklet](#)