

What Can They Do: How State Officials Can Protect Reproductive Freedom



GOVERNOR

- ▶ Can veto legislation that comes to their desk that would restrict abortion access.
- ▶ Can sign executive orders that protect access to abortion, including telemedicine abortion.
- ▶ Can appoint officials and judges that are supportive of reproductive health and abortion access.
- ▶ Can influence state house and senate leadership to set a legislative agenda that supports reproductive health and access.



ATTORNEY GENERAL

- ▶ Has the authority to determine enforcement, or non-enforcement, of abortion restrictions or anti-abortion laws.
- ▶ Can advise state prosecutors and attorneys about their recommendations for prosecuting, or not prosecuting, cases related to abortion laws.
- ▶ Challenge, in court, standing law that opposes abortion access or reproductive health.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE/SENATOR

- ▶ State legislators can write legislation that protects access to abortion, including the ability to get telehealth abortion and obtain pills for abortion in the mail.
- ▶ Can work to repeal existing anti-abortion laws or other laws that may inhibit access to reproductive health.



LT. GOVERNOR

- ▶ Can keep legislation that opposes abortion access in committees that would ensure it does not move.
- ▶ If anti-abortion legislation does make it out of committee, they can decide not to hold a vote on it.
- ▶ Can assign senators that are friendly to abortion access to committees that hear abortion legislation.



JUDGES

- ▶ Judges may hear challenges to anti-abortion legislation and they may have the ability to place an injunction on those laws, blocking them from taking effect.
- ▶ Can decide the leniency they provide to accused and/or convicted individuals under anti-abortion laws.

