

Alabama state sued over abortion bill

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Two high-profile groups in the USA have filed a lawsuit to challenge the near-total abortion ban in the state of Alabama. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and the non-profit organization Planned Parenthood want the law overturned. The ACLU

tweeted: "We've been clear. If you attack our constitutional right to reproductive freedom, we will sue." The bill is called the "Human Life Protection Act". It bans all abortions in the state, except when it "is necessary in order to prevent a serious health risk" to the mother. The bill criminalizes the procedure and reclassifies abortion as a Class A crime. Doctors who perform an abortion could be imprisoned for up to 99 years.

Passions are running high in Alabama over the abortion bill. One of the biggest points of disagreement with the bill is that it contains no exceptions for incest and rape. President Donald Trump said he did not support the ban because of the lack of exceptions. The Alabama House of Representatives and the state Senate overwhelmingly rejected attempts to include those exceptions in the law. Alabama's governor said even after incest and rape, life is of the utmost importance. She said: "This legislation stands as a powerful testament...that every life is precious and that every life is a sacred gift from God." The two groups pushing for the law to be reversed said it was a "manmade public health emergency".

Sources: bbc.com / cbsnews.com / montgomeryadvertiser.com

Writing

Women and not men should decide on abortion legislation. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

high profile / lawsuit / challenge / non-profit / constitutional / freedom / imprisoned / passion / disagreement / exceptions / governor / legislation / precious / life / health

True / False

- a) Three groups in the USA have filed lawsuits against an abortion bill. T / F
- b) The ACLU said it would not sue the state of Alabama. T / F
- c) Abortion in Alabama is now a Class B crime. T / F
- d) A doctor in Alabama could get 99 years in prison for performing abortions. T / F
- e) People disagree over what exceptions there are to abortion. T / F
- f) President Trump said he supported the bill. T / F
- g) Alabama's governor said every life was precious. T / F
- h) Two groups called the bill a "manmade public health emergency". T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. high-profile | a. unavoidable |
| 2. sue | b. demonstration |
| 3. necessary | c. carry out |
| 4. procedure | d. take legal action |
| 5. perform | e. back |
| 6. exceptions | f. prominent |
| 7. support | g. greatest |
| 8. utmost | h. overturned |
| 9. testament | i. operation |
| 10. reversed | j. special cases |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about the Alabama abortion bill?
- b) Why are the groups filing a lawsuit?
- c) Should reproductive freedom be protected?
- d) What do you think of the Alabama abortion bill?
- e) Do you agree with the law regarding abortion in your country?
- f) Do you think abortion should be criminalized?
- g) Should men or women create abortion laws?
- h) Should doctors be imprisoned for performing abortions?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. filed a | a. profit organization |
| 2. non- | b. health emergency |
| 3. reproductive | c. a serious health risk |
| 4. in order to prevent | d. high |
| 5. could be imprisoned | e. freedom |
| 6. Passions are running | f. rejected attempts |
| 7. it contains no exceptions | g. lawsuit |
| 8. the state Senate overwhelmingly | h. gift from God |
| 9. every life is a sacred | i. for up to 99 years |
| 10. a manmade public | j. for incest and rape |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Should abortion be allowed in cases of rape and incest?
- Is 'life is a sacred gift from God'?
- Is abortion murder?
- Should women have the right to choose?
- Is the abortion law a 'manmade public health emergency'?
- What advice do you have for the lawmakers?
- What questions would you like to ask the lawmakers?

Spelling

- ncelehagl the near-total abortion ban
- want the law eouvrdrnet
- attack our insuatntiotco right
- urdcrpiovtee freedom
- The bill criminalizes the dropereuc
- could be dompeirsni for up to 99 years
- it contains no eposcntexi
- overwhelmingly rteecjed
- This ilaslgtieon stands
- a arcsed gift from God
- pushing for the law to be evrreesd
- a manmade public health eeegrnmcy

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. a	4. i	5. c
6. j	7. e	8. g	9. b	10. h

Role Play

Role A – In The Womb

You think being in the womb is the most difficult stage of life. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their ages aren't as difficult. Also, tell the others which is the least difficult of these (and why): 15 years old, 55 years old or 80 years old.

Role B – Fifteen Years Old

You think 15 years old is the most difficult stage of life. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their ages aren't as difficult. Also, tell the others which is the least difficult of these (and why): being in the womb, 55 years old or 80 years old.

Role C – Fifty-Five Years Old

You think 55 years old is the most difficult stage of life. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their ages aren't as difficult. Also, tell the others which is the least difficult of these (and why): 15 years old, being in the womb or 80 years old.

Role D – Eighty Years Old

You think 80 years old is the most difficult stage of life. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their ages aren't as difficult. Also, tell the others which is the least difficult of these (and why): 15 years old, 55 years old or being in the womb.

Speaking – Life

Rank these with your partner. Put the most difficult stage of life at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------|------|
| • in the womb | • 15 |
| • the first week | • 30 |
| • one year | • 55 |
| • seven years | • 80 |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.