

OpenVoiceNews U.S.

Transparent. Unbiased. Yours.

Ohio Judge Again Blocks Telemedicine Abortion Ban

July 14, 2025

– Categories: Human Rights



[Download IPFS](#)

An Ohio judge has once again ruled to halt enforcement of the state’s restrictions on telemedicine abortions, citing constitutional protections established by Ohio Issue 1, a reproductive rights amendment approved by voters in November 2023. This marks the third time the law has been temporarily blocked as legal challenges continue.

A Hamilton County court decision handed down by Judge Alison Hatheway suspended Ohio Senate Bill 260, which prohibits physicians from prescribing abortion-inducing medication through virtual appointments. Under this 2021 law, doctors could face felony charges for using telemedicine to provide mifepristone and misoprostol, medications commonly used together to terminate early pregnancies. The lawsuit, brought by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Ohio and Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio, also targets additional state regulations that they argue limit the ability of qualified advanced practice clinicians, including nurse practitioners and certified nurse midwives, to deliver this care.

Judge Hatheway determined the challengers demonstrated a strong likelihood of success in proving the law infringes on constitutional rights. She emphasized that the recent state constitutional amendment establishing abortion as a protected right requires any regulation to be narrowly tailored to promote patient health and be based on credible medical evidence. The judge noted the state already allows advanced practice clinicians to prescribe the same medication for miscarriage management, further weakening the rationale for limiting its use in abortions.

Supporters of the lawsuit, including Planned Parenthood Federation of America and the ACLU, hailed the decision as an important safeguard for women's reproductive autonomy. In a joint statement, the organizations said, "Advanced practice clinicians are fully qualified under Ohio law to provide medication abortions, and patients should not be denied care based on politics."

On the other side, the anti-abortion group Ohio Right to Life criticized the ruling as "reckless judicial interference in women's health," arguing that it undermines the role of elected lawmakers and medical standards. The organization voiced confidence that pro-life Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost would pursue an appeal, potentially bringing the case before the Ohio Supreme Court.

While Democratic legislators have proposed new measures to enshrine abortion access in state law and repeal older restrictions, they face significant resistance in a General Assembly dominated by a Republican supermajority. Many lawmakers remain committed to passing tighter limits on abortion, despite the voter-approved constitutional amendment and repeated court rulings striking down similar laws.

This latest court order underscores the ongoing clash between advocates seeking to expand abortion access through telemedicine and those determined to preserve traditional safeguards and regulatory oversight.