

The Planned Parenthood v. Stein Case

Case Name: *Planned Parenthood South Atlantic v. Stein*

Case Status: Motion to intervene granted on July 3, 2023

Significance: Whether North Carolina is free to protect the health and safety of women and girls in the state and ensure they have real support for their pregnancies.



Background: In 2023, North Carolina passed a law protecting the health and safety of women and girls obtaining abortions in the state. The law now protects unborn children after 12 weeks gestation, except in the cases of medical emergencies, rape or incest, and severe fetal anomalies. Abortions after 12 weeks gestation must be performed in a hospital, and confirmation of the existence of a non-ectopic pregnancy must be obtained by an abortionist before prescribing, administering, or dispensing chemical abortion drugs to ensure the safety of the patient. Planned Parenthood filed a lawsuit challenging the 12-week law, the hospital requirement, and the confirmation of a non-ectopic pregnancy before dispensing chemical abortion drugs. It later amended the complaint and is now only challenging the hospital requirement and confirmation of a non-ectopic pregnancy. Alliance Defending Freedom represents Philip Berger, President Pro Tempore of the North Carolina Senate, and Timothy Moore, Speaker of the North Carolina House, who successfully intervened in the lawsuit to help defend North Carolina's pro-woman and pro-life laws.

Key Points

- Pro-life laws affirm women's dignity and prioritize their physical and emotional health and well-being.
- Women deserve real health care, not dangerous and unnecessary procedures. Pro-life laws like these ensure that women aren't put at the heightened risk of death, illness, and psychological trauma caused by abortion.
- North Carolina has a compelling interest to protect the health and safety of pregnant mothers and their unborn children.

Key Facts

- North Carolina law states that surgical abortions, when permitted after the twelfth week of pregnancy, shall only be performed in a hospital by a licensed physician.
- Taking chemical abortion drugs without confirming that the pregnancy is not ectopic is incredibly [dangerous and even life-threatening](#). Ectopic pregnancies occur in [1 out of every 50 pregnancies](#).
- The same law also supports low-income North Carolinians by appropriating \$3,500,000 each year for grants for local health departments and nonprofit community health centers, as well as \$2,800,000 each year to Medicaid benefits relating to pregnancy and prenatal care.

The Bottom Line: North Carolina is free to protect the health and safety of women and girls in the state and ensure they have real support for their pregnancies.