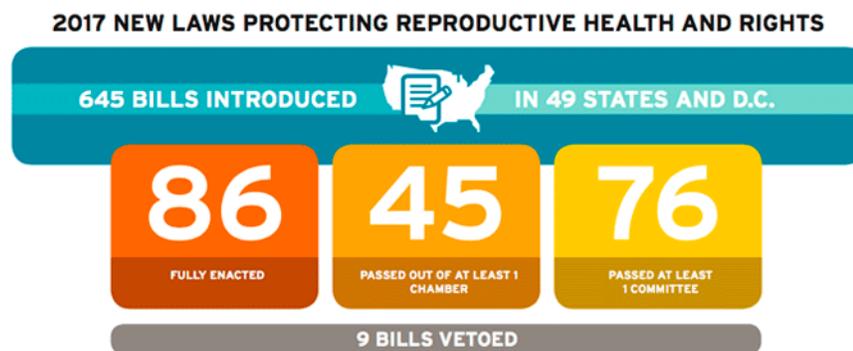


The National Institute for Reproductive Health's 2017 End of Year Report, [Gaining Ground: Proactive Reproductive Health and Rights Legislation in the States](#), details how elected officials in nearly every state took action last year to advance reproductive rights, health, and justice, serving as a powerful counterweight to a federal government that has worked to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and a president who has set his sights on dismantling the protections of *Roe v. Wade*.

In 2017, state advocates and legislators introduced and passed more proactive bills—including to expand abortion access—than in any previous year, proving that by working together, it is possible to improve the daily lives of the residents of their states.

To read the full report, go to www.nirhealth.org



SIGNIFICANT TRENDS IN 2017

Securing access to abortion through state laws:

- ✓ **Delaware** repealed unconstitutional portions of its pre-*Roe* abortion law and established clear protections for abortion access;
- ✓ **Hawaii** created protections against “crisis pregnancy centers” that deceive women seeking abortions;
- ✓ **Illinois** restored insurance coverage for abortion in its Medicaid program and for state employees;
- ✓ **New York** secured insurance coverage for abortion;
- ✓ **Oregon** ensured coverage for a full range of reproductive health services.

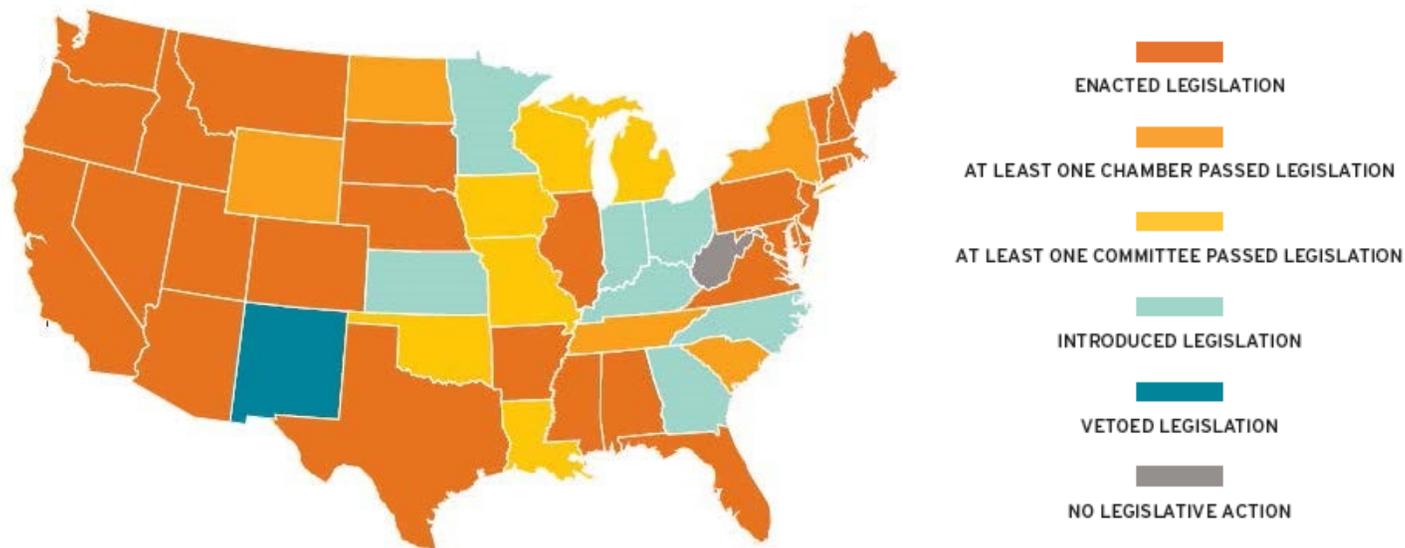
Supporting affordable contraception:

- ✓ **11 states and the District of Columbia** enacted proactive measures to support their residents' access to contraception through a variety of policy measures (CA, CO, DC, HI, MA, ME MD, NE, NY, OR, VA, WA).

Taking action in “red” states to advance reproductive freedom:

- ✓ From **Arkansas** to **Missouri** and **Tennessee** to **Utah**, a record number of proactive bills were introduced in red states across the country. **Texas** led the pack with more than **78 proactive bills introduced** and four becoming law.

MOVEMENT OF PROACTIVE LEGISLATION FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, RIGHTS, AND JUSTICE IN 2017



MOVING FORWARD: NIRH'S POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2018

For 2018, NIRH suggests that advocates and policymakers consider the following bold policy ideas that have the potential to advance reproductive health and change the public conversation about reproductive health, rights, and justice:

- ✓ **Provide insurance coverage** for the full range of reproductive health services, including contraception and abortion, prenatal care, postpartum care, and breastfeeding support and supplies.
- ✓ **Repeal laws that restrict access to abortion**, including waiting periods, bans on insurance coverage, criminalization of women's behavior during pregnancy, or telemedicine bans.
- ✓ **Keep abortion patients and providers safe** by working with law enforcement to provide training, information, resources, and accountability to ensure safety for all those who work in or seek care at clinics.
- ✓ **Ensure patients can choose their reproductive health care provider** by prohibiting insurance plans from restricting access to providers, whether in or out of network.
- ✓ **Ensure all patients can get the contraceptive option of their choice**, for example by allowing access to a 12-month supply of birth control.
- ✓ **Promote the health of incarcerated pregnant women** by prohibiting shackling, and requiring prisons, jails, and prosecutors to meet the needs of their pregnant inmates and their babies.
- ✓ **Protect the rights of pregnant and parenting students** by allowing students to take sick leave without endangering their academic career, providing breastfeeding support and accommodations, and providing childcare for students with young children.