# Ted Cruz On Abortion

**Highlights:**

* Ted Cruz supported overturning Roe v. Wade.
  + Cruz praised the Supreme Court’s decision to overturn Roe v. Wade.
  + Cruz voiced support for overturning Roe v. Wade for over a decade.
* Ted Cruz introduced and voted for federal abortion bans.
  + Cruz supported penalties for abortion providers who violated a federal abortion ban.
  + Cruz has opposed language for exceptions to abortion bans.
* Ted Cruz supported personhood amendments.
  + Cruz pledged to sponsor the Life at Conception Act.
  + Personhood could ban some types of birth control and in-vitro fertilization.

## Cruz Long Supported Overturning Roe v. Wade

### Cruz Praised The Supreme Court’s Decision To Overturn Roe v. Wade

**Cruz On Dobbs Decision: “Nothing Short Of A Massive Victory For Life, And It Will Save The Lives Of Millions Of Innocent Babies.”** According to a press release from Sen. Cruz, “U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, today issued the following statement on the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in the Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization case: ‘The Supreme Court’s decision in the Dobbs case, reversing Roe v. Wade, is nothing short of a massive victory for life, and it will save the lives of millions of innocent babies. The decision reverses one of the most egregious departures from the Constitution and legal precedent the United States has ever seen, and one that has resulted in the deaths of 63 million American children.[‘]” [Sen. Cruz, Press Release, [6/24/22](https://www.cruz.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/sen-cruz-on-the-dobbs-decision-nothing-short-of-a-massive-victory-for-life)]

* **Dobbs Overturned The Constitutional Right To Abortion In Roe v. Wade.** According to CNBC, “The Supreme Court in a 5-4 decision on Friday overturned Roe v. Wade, the landmark ruling that established the constitutional right to abortion in the U.S. in 1973. […] The case that triggered Roe’s demise, known as Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization, is related to a Mississippi law that banned nearly all abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy.” [CNBC, [6/24/22](https://www.cnbc.com/2022/06/24/roe-v-wade-overturned-by-supreme-court-ending-federal-abortion-rights.html)]

**Cruz Celebrated The Overturning Of Roe v. Wade In Dobbs.** According to a press release from Sen. Cruz, “U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas), member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, today issued the following statement on the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in the Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization case: […] ‘Roe was wrong the day it was decided, and it has been wrong every day since then. If you search for the word ‘abortion’ in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, you won’t find it. The Court at the time acknowledged that, and yet Roe created a brand new constitutional ‘right’ out of whole cloth.[‘]” [Sen. Cruz, Press Release, [6/24/22](https://www.cruz.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/sen-cruz-on-the-dobbs-decision-nothing-short-of-a-massive-victory-for-life)]

### Cruz Voiced Support For Overturning Roe V. Wade For Over A Decade

**2012: Cruz Supported Overturning Roe v. Wade.** According to the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, “Cruz speaks of our ‘stark choice’ and the belief that ‘government is not the answer’ but fosters ‘dependency, destroying individual liberty.’ He pledges to ‘restore our constitution’ and ‘return to the founding principles.’ Cruz sees the greatest steps forward over the last two years not in Republican gains against Democrats, but in Tea Party victories against established Republicans. He favors repealing Roe v. Wade; abolishing the federal Education, Energy and Commerce departments and the IRS; replacing Social Security with private accounts; and blocking nontraditional paths to citizenship.” [Fort Worth Star-Telegram, 9/7/12]

## Cruz Introduced And Voted For Federal Abortion Bans

### Cruz Supported Federal Abortion Bans

**2021: Cruz Introduced A 20-Week Federal Abortion Ban.** According to a press release from Sen. Cruz, “U.S. Sens. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) and Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) this week introduced the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. The legislation would provide common-sense protections for unborn children at 20 weeks after fertilization, a point at which there is significant scientific evidence that abortion inflicts tremendous pain on the unborn. […] Upon introduction, Sen. Cruz said: ‘I am proud to join Senator Graham on this bill to ensure the protection of unborn children who, as the science shows us, experience severe pain in the process of abortion. Every human life is a gift from God, and America's founders knew that life comes first. Without life, there is no liberty; without life, there is no pursuit of happiness. Our fight for life is far from over, and I will continue to stand up for the unborn who feel pain in the womb and who are denied a chance at life.’” [Sen. Cruz, Press Release, 1/28/21]

**2015: Cruz Effectively Voted For A Bill That Would Prohibit Abortions After 20-Weeks Gestation Except In Cases Of Rape Or Incest, But Would Erect New Barriers Such As Requiring Rape Victims To Document That They Received Prior Medical Treatment Or Counseling.** In September 2015, Cruz effectively voted for a bill that would prohibit abortions after 20 weeks of gestation and would impose criminal penalties on doctors that violated the ban. According to Congressional Quarterly, the bill would, “prohibit abortions in cases where the probable age of the fetus is 20 weeks or later, except in cases of rape, incest against a minor or when the life of the pregnant woman is in danger. Specifically, it would provide an exemption for pregnancies that are the result of rape against adult women if the woman obtained counseling or medical treatment for the rape at least 48 hours before the abortion. Pregnancies resulting from rape or incest against a minor would also be exempt from the ban if the rape or incest had been reported before the abortion to law enforcement or another government agency authorized to act on reports of child abuse. The measure would impose criminal penalties on doctors who violate the ban. The measure also would require health care practitioners to give the same level of care to an infant born alive during a failed abortion as they would give to an infant born at the same gestational age through natural birth.” The vote was on cloture and the Senate rejected the bill 54 to 42; 60 Senators voting yes would have been required to invoke cloture. The House had earlier passed the bill. [Senate Vote 268, [9/22/15](http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=114&session=1&vote=00268); Congressional Quarterly, [9/22/15](http://www.cq.com/vote/2015/S/268?4); Congressional Actions, [H.R. 36](https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/36/all-actions)]

* **The Bill Would Have Sentenced Doctors To Up To Five Years In Jail For Violating The Ban.** According to Congressional Quarterly, “The bill imposes criminal penalties on physicians who violate the ban, with violations subject to a maximum five-year jail sentence, fines or both. It prohibits the prosecution of the woman obtaining the abortion, however, either as the perpetrator or as a conspirator to violate the ban.” [Congressional Quarterly, [5/12/15](http://www.cq.com/doc/har-4681207/3?7&search=CPUgz1bX)]
* **The Bill Would Have Created Barriers For Exceptions In The Case Of Rape Or Incest.** According to Congressional Quarterly, “And while the original bill’s rape and incest provisions were onerous, they say the new language erects new barriers, including requiring rape victims to document that they received prior medical treatment or counseling, and that a second doctor be present for the abortion.” [Congressional Quarterly, [5/12/15](http://www.cq.com/doc/har-4681207/3?7&search=CPUgz1bX)]

### Cruz Supported Penalties For Abortion Providers Who Violated A Federal Abortion Ban

**2021: Cruz Voted For An Amendment That Would Create Penalties For Providers That Conduct Elective Abortions At Or After 20 Weeks Of Gestation.** In August 2021, Cruz voted for an amendment which would, according to Congressional Quarterly, “create a deficit-neutral reserve fund to allow for legislation related to improving health programs, including to establish penalties for providers of elective abortions at or after 20 weeks of gestation.” The vote was on the adoption of an amendment. The Senate rejected the amendment by a vote of 48-51. [Senate Vote 348, [8/11/21](http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=117&session=1&vote=00348); Congressional Quarterly, [8/11/21](https://plus.cq.com/vote/2021/S/348?7); Congressional Actions, [S.Amdt. 3758](https://www.congress.gov/amendment/117th-congress/senate-amendment/3758/actions); Congressional Actions, [S.Con.Res.14](https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-concurrent-resolution/14/actions)]

### Cruz Has Opposed Language For Exceptions To Abortion Bans

**Cruz On Rape Or Incest Exceptions For Abortion Bans: “I Don't Believe It Makes Sense To Blame The Child.”** According to the Capital Times, “Kelly then noted that Cruz doesn’t favor exceptions to allow abortion in cases of rape or incest. ‘When it comes to rape, rape is a horrific crime against the humanity of a person, and needs to be punished and punished severely,’ Cruz said. ‘But at the same time, as horrible as that crime is, I don’t believe it’s the child’s fault. And we weep at the crime, we want to do everything we can to prevent the crime on the front end, and to punish the criminal, but I don’t believe it makes sense to blame the child.’” [Capital Times, [4/4/16](https://captimes.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/election-matters/ted-cruz-in-wisconsin-roe-v-wade-not-settled-ban-abortion-with-no-exceptions/article_06c97918-d7b6-5727-b3e4-d5dd6d0123c5.htmlhttp:/host.madison.com/ct/news/local/govt-and-politics/election-matters/ted-cruz-in-wisconsin-roe-v-wade-not-settled-ban/article_28a2deb5-c488-583e-b4ee-5da06f2f1b3e.html)]

**When Asked If He Supported Abortion In Cases Of Rape, Cruz Said, “Every Life Is A Precious Gift.”** According to the New York Times, “Mr. Cruz was asked if he could support abortions in cases of rape, setting off a few murmurs in the room. ‘Plant,’ another man said quietly. Mr. Cruz thanked the questioner but gave no ground: ‘Every life is a precious gift,’ he said, adding that the issue was likely to come up ‘once, twice, maybe three times in the general election debates.’ When the man repeatedly interrupted, Mr. Cruz moved on: ‘Sir, we’re not going to debate, sir. Sir, sir — free speech — sir. Thank you, sir. Next question.’ The crowd applauded.” [New York Times, [1/8/16](http://www.nytimes.com/politics/first-draft/2016/01/08/ted-cruzs-iowa-bus-tour-abortion-comes-up-briefly/)]

**Cruz Said He Opposed Exceptions To Abortion Bans In Cases Of Rape And Incest.**According to the Houston Chronicle, “Cruz would allow abortion only in cases in which the mother’s life is in jeopardy: ‘I think that every human life is a precious gift from God and should be protected in law from conception until natural death.’” [Houston Chronicle, [10/31/12](http://blog.chron.com/txpotomac/2012/10/ted-cruz-says-questions-about-mourdock-rape-comment-are-an-unfortunate-distraction-from-the-issues-that-matter/#6630101=0)]

## Cruz Supported Personhood Amendments

### Cruz Pledged To Back Personhood Amendments

**August 2015: Cruz Signed Georgia Right To Life PAC’s Personhood Affirmation.** According to Georgia Right to Life PAC, “Today, Texas US Senator Ted Cruz received a ringing endorsement from Georgia’s largest pro-life organization. ‘Senator Cruz has an unblemished record of standing up for innocent life,’ said Ricardo Davis, Director of Georgia Right to Life’s Political Action Committee (GRTL PAC). ‘Recent revelations about the horrors of the abortion cartel cry out for a principled fighter like Senator Cruz.’ Senator Cruz received the endorsement after reviewing his activities supporting personhood and receiving his signed GRTL PAC Personhood Affirmation, which asks that candidates support a personhood amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Such an amendment would guarantee a constitutional right to life for every innocent human being, from earliest biological beginning until natural death.” [Press release- Georgia Right to Life PAC, [8/8/15](http://www.christiannewswire.com/news/822076498.html)]

* **Cruz Pledged To Support Personhood Legislation.** According to Georgia Right to Life PAC, “Today, Texas US Senator Ted Cruz received a ringing endorsement from Georgia’s largest pro-life organization. ‘Senator Cruz has an unblemished record of standing up for innocent life,’ said Ricardo Davis, Director of Georgia Right to Life’s Political Action Committee (GRTL PAC). ‘Recent revelations about the horrors of the abortion cartel cry out for a principled fighter like Senator Cruz.’ Senator Cruz received the endorsement after reviewing his activities supporting personhood and receiving his signed GRTL PAC Personhood Affirmation, which asks that candidates support a personhood amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Such an amendment would guarantee a constitutional right to life for every innocent human being, from earliest biological beginning until natural death.” [Press release- Georgia Right to Life PAC, [8/8/15](http://www.christiannewswire.com/news/822076498.html)]

### Cruz Pledged To Sponsor The Life At Conception Act

**2012: Cruz Pledged To Co-Sponsor The Life At Conception Act.** According to a press release from the National Pro-Life Alliance, “But shortly before the primary, one of his opponents, Ted Cruz began a surge, denying Dewhurst the easy victory he had been planning on, turning the race into a runoff. In making that surge, Mr. Cruz took a bold stance on several issues, but most importantly to National Pro-Life Alliance members he pledged if elected to cosponsor the Life at Conception Act.” [National Pro-Life Alliance, [9/4/12](http://nationalprolifealliance.tumblr.com/post/30870935482/another-pro-life-victory)]

**Cruz Supported The Life At Conception Act.** According to Pro Life Alliance, “With the general election now past, come January several newly elected pro-life champions will be joining the fight on Capitol Hill for a Life at Conception Act. One of those champions will be Ted Cruz from Texas whose strong support for the Life at Conception Act contributed to his success.” [Pro Life Alliance, [11/9/12](http://www.prolifealliance.com/news.html)]

* **Legislation Declared The Unborn To Be “Persons.”** According to the Pro Life Alliance, “A Life at Conception Act - as introduced in the 113th Congress by Congressman Jim Jordan (H.R. 1091) and in the Senate by Senator Rand Paul (S. 583) - is legislation that, quite simply, would declare the unborn to be ‘persons’ under the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, and therefore entitled to the right to life guaranteed therein.” [Pro Life Alliance, Accessed [8/15/14](http://www.prolifealliance.com/LCA%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf)]

### Personhood Could Ban Some Types Of Birth Control And In-Vitro Fertilization

**New York Times: Personhood Amendments “Would Essentially Deem Abortion And Some Types Of Birth Control Murder.”** According to the New York Times, “The Democratic offensive is built around statements by Mr. Romney that some have linked to a proposed constitutional amendment in Mississippi, which among other things would effectively make illegal certain types of birth control. Under the measure, known as a ‘personhood’ amendment, a fertilized human egg would be declared to be a legal person. The amendment, which would essentially deem abortion and some types of birth control murder, represents perhaps the furthest front in the anti-abortion movement.” [New York Times, [11/3/11](http://thecaucus.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/11/03/democrats-target-romney-on-reproductive-rights/?_r=0)]

**American Congress Of Obstetricians And Gynecologists: So Called “Personhood” Legislation Could Abolish Regular Forms Of Birth Control Like The IUD And The Common, Everyday Birth Control Pill.** According to a statement from the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, “Although the individual wording in these proposed measures varies from state to state, they all attempt to give full legal rights to a fertilized egg by defining ‘personhood’ from the moment of fertilization, before conception (ie, pregnancy/ implantation) has occurred. This would have wide-reaching harmful implications for the practice of medicine and on women’s access to contraception, fertility treatments, pregnancy termination, and other essential medical procedures. These ‘personhood’ proposals, as acknowledged by proponents, would make condoms, natural family planning, and spermicides the only legally allowed forms of birth control. Thus, some of the most effective and reliable forms of contraception, such as oral contraceptives, intrauterine devices (IUDs), and other forms of FDA-approved hormonal contraceptives could be banned in states that adopt ‘personhood’ measures. Women’s very lives would be jeopardized if physicians were prohibited from terminating life-threatening ectopic and molar pregnancies. Women who experience pregnancy loss or other negative pregnancy outcomes could be prosecuted in some cases.” [American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, [2/10/12](http://www.acog.org/About_ACOG/News_Room/News_Releases/2012/Personhood_Measures)]

**Personhood Amendments, Which Aimed To Define A Fertilized Embryo As A Person, Could Make Forms Of Birth Control, Like The Common, Everyday Birth Control Pill, Illegal Because They Prevent Implantation Of A Fertilized Egg.** According to Salon, “But [Mississippi’s] Initiative 26, which would change the definition of ‘person’ in the Mississippi state Constitution to ‘include every human being from the moment of fertilization, cloning or the equivalent thereof,’ is more than just an absolute ban on abortion and a barely veiled shot at Roe v. Wade — although it is both. By its own logic, the initiative would almost certainly ban common forms of birth control like the IUD and the morning-after pill, call into question the legality of the common birth-control pill, and even open the door to investigating women who have suffered miscarriages. … [T]he Personhood movement hopes to do nothing less than reclassify everyday, routine birth control as abortion. The medical definition of pregnancy is when a fertilized egg successfully implants in the uterine wall. If this initiative passes, and fertilized eggs on their own have full legal rights, anything that could potentially block that implantation – something a woman’s body does naturally all the time – could be considered murder. Scientists say hormonal birth-control pills and the morning-after pill work primarily by preventing fertilization in the first place, but the outside possibility, never documented, that an egg could be fertilized anyway and blocked is enough for some pro-lifers.” [Salon, [10/26/11](http://www.salon.com/2011/10/26/the_next_front_in_the_abortion_wars_birth_control/singleton/)]