

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 792

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 2, 2023

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana (for himself, Mr. BABIN, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. DUNCAN, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. ESTES, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, and Mr. LAMBORN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Child Interstate Abor-  
5 tion Notification Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. TRANSPORTATION OF MINORS IN CIRCUMVENTION**  
 2 **OF CERTAIN LAWS RELATING TO ABORTION.**

3 Title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting  
 4 after chapter 117 the following:

5 **“CHAPTER 117A—TRANSPORTATION OF**  
 6 **MINORS IN CIRCUMVENTION OF CER-**  
 7 **TAIN LAWS RELATING TO ABORTION**

“Sec.

“2431. Transportation of minors in circumvention of certain laws relating to  
 abortion.

“2432. Transportation of minors in circumvention of certain laws relating to  
 abortion.

8 **“§ 2431. Transportation of minors in circumvention of**  
 9 **certain laws relating to abortion**

10 “(a) OFFENSE.—

11 “(1) GENERALLY.—Except as provided in sub-  
 12 section (b), whoever knowingly transports a minor  
 13 across a State line, with the intent that such minor  
 14 obtain an abortion, and thereby in fact abridges the  
 15 right of a parent under a law requiring parental in-  
 16 volvement in a minor’s abortion decision, in force in  
 17 the State where the minor resides, shall be fined  
 18 under this title or imprisoned not more than one  
 19 year, or both.

20 “(2) DEFINITION.—For the purposes of this  
 21 subsection, an abridgement of the right of a parent  
 22 occurs if an abortion is performed or induced on the  
 23 minor, in a State or a foreign nation other than the

1 State where the minor resides, without the parental  
2 consent or notification, or the judicial authorization,  
3 that would have been required by that law had the  
4 abortion been performed in the State where the  
5 minor resides.

6 “(b) EXCEPTIONS.—

7 “(1) The prohibition of subsection (a) does not  
8 apply if the abortion was necessary to save the life  
9 of the minor because her life was endangered by a  
10 physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness,  
11 including a life endangering physical condition  
12 caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself.

13 “(2) A minor transported in violation of this  
14 section, and any parent of that minor, may not be  
15 prosecuted or sued for a violation of this section, a  
16 conspiracy to violate this section, or an offense  
17 under section 2 or 3 of this title based on a violation  
18 of this section.

19 “(c) AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE.—It is an affirmative  
20 defense to a prosecution for an offense, or to a civil action,  
21 based on a violation of this section that the defendant—

22 “(1) reasonably believed, based on information  
23 the defendant obtained directly from a parent of the  
24 minor, that before the minor obtained the abortion,  
25 the parental consent or notification took place that

1 would have been required by the law requiring pa-  
2 rental involvement in a minor’s abortion decision,  
3 had the abortion been performed in the State where  
4 the minor resides; or

5 “(2) was presented with documentation showing  
6 with a reasonable degree of certainty that a court in  
7 the minor’s State of residence waived any parental  
8 notification required by the laws of that State, or  
9 otherwise authorized that the minor be allowed to  
10 procure an abortion.

11 “(d) CIVIL ACTION.—Any parent who suffers harm  
12 from a violation of subsection (a) may obtain appropriate  
13 relief in a civil action unless the parent has committed  
14 an act of incest with the minor subject to subsection (a).

15 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this sec-  
16 tion—

17 “(1) the term ‘abortion’ means the use or pre-  
18 scription of any instrument, medicine, drug, or any  
19 other substance or device—

20 “(A) to intentionally kill the unborn child  
21 of a woman known to be pregnant; or

22 “(B) to intentionally prematurely termi-  
23 nate the pregnancy of a woman known to be  
24 pregnant, with an intention other than to in-  
25 crease the probability of a live birth or of pre-

1 serving the life or health of the child after live  
2 birth, or to remove a dead unborn child;

3 “(2) the term ‘law requiring parental involve-  
4 ment in a minor’s abortion decision’ means a law—

5 “(A) requiring, before an abortion is per-  
6 formed on a minor, either—

7 “(i) the notification to, or consent of,  
8 a parent of that minor; or

9 “(ii) proceedings in a State court; and

10 “(B) that does not provide as an alter-  
11 native to the requirements described in sub-  
12 paragraph (A) notification to or consent of any  
13 person or entity who is not described in that  
14 subparagraph;

15 “(3) the term ‘minor’ means an individual who  
16 is not older than the maximum age requiring paren-  
17 tal notification or consent, or proceedings in a State  
18 court, under the law requiring parental involvement  
19 in a minor’s abortion decision;

20 “(4) the term ‘parent’ means—

21 “(A) a parent or guardian;

22 “(B) a legal custodian; or

23 “(C) a person standing in loco parentis  
24 who has care and control of the minor, and  
25 with whom the minor regularly resides, who is

1 designated by the law requiring parental in-  
 2 volvement in the minor’s abortion decision as a  
 3 person to whom notification, or from whom con-  
 4 sent, is required; and

5 “(5) the term ‘State’ includes the District of  
 6 Columbia and any commonwealth, possession, or  
 7 other territory of the United States, and any Indian  
 8 tribe or reservation.

9 **“§ 2432. Transportation of minors in circumvention of**  
 10 **certain laws relating to abortion**

11 “Notwithstanding section 2431(b)(2), whoever has  
 12 committed an act of incest with a minor and knowingly  
 13 transports the minor across a State line with the intent  
 14 that such minor obtain an abortion, shall be fined under  
 15 this title or imprisoned not more than one year, or both.  
 16 For the purposes of this section, the terms ‘State’, ‘minor’,  
 17 and ‘abortion’ have, respectively, the definitions given  
 18 those terms in section 2435.”.

19 **SEC. 3. CHILD INTERSTATE ABORTION NOTIFICATION.**

20 Title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting  
 21 after chapter 117A the following:

22 **“CHAPTER 117B—CHILD INTERSTATE**  
 23 **ABORTION NOTIFICATION**

“Sec.

“2435. Child interstate abortion notification.

1 **“§ 2435. Child interstate abortion notification**

2 “(a) OFFENSE.—

3 “(1) GENERALLY.—A physician who knowingly  
4 performs or induces an abortion on a minor in viola-  
5 tion of the requirements of this section shall be fined  
6 under this title or imprisoned not more than one  
7 year, or both.

8 “(2) PARENTAL NOTIFICATION.—A physician  
9 who performs or induces an abortion on a minor  
10 who is a resident of a State other than the State in  
11 which the abortion is performed must provide, or  
12 cause his or her agent to provide, at least 24 hours  
13 actual notice to a parent of the minor before per-  
14 forming the abortion. If actual notice to such parent  
15 is not accomplished after a reasonable effort has  
16 been made, at least 24 hours constructive notice  
17 must be given to a parent before the abortion is per-  
18 formed.

19 “(b) EXCEPTIONS.—The notification requirement of  
20 subsection (a)(2) does not apply if—

21 “(1) the abortion is performed or induced in a  
22 State that has, in force, a law requiring parental in-  
23 volvement in a minor’s abortion decision and the  
24 physician complies with the requirements of that  
25 law;

1           “(2) the physician is presented with documenta-  
2           tion showing with a reasonable degree of certainty  
3           that a court in the minor’s State of residence has  
4           waived any parental notification required by the laws  
5           of that State, or has otherwise authorized that the  
6           minor be allowed to procure an abortion;

7           “(3) the minor declares in a signed written  
8           statement that she is the victim of sexual abuse, ne-  
9           glect, or physical abuse by a parent, and, before an  
10          abortion is performed on the minor, the physician  
11          notifies the authorities specified to receive reports of  
12          child abuse or neglect by the law of the State in  
13          which the minor resides of the known or suspected  
14          abuse or neglect;

15          “(4) the abortion is necessary to save the life  
16          of the minor because her life was endangered by a  
17          physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness,  
18          including a life endangering physical condition  
19          caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself, but  
20          an exception under this paragraph does not apply  
21          unless the attending physician or an agent of such  
22          physician, within 24 hours after completion of the  
23          abortion, notifies a parent in writing that an abor-  
24          tion was performed on the minor and of the cir-



1       cumstances that warranted invocation of this para-  
2       graph; or

3               “(5) the minor is physically accompanied by a  
4       person who presents the physician or his agent with  
5       documentation showing with a reasonable degree of  
6       certainty that he or she is in fact the parent of that  
7       minor.

8               “(c) CIVIL ACTION.—Any parent who suffers harm  
9       from a violation of subsection (a) may obtain appropriate  
10      relief in a civil action unless the parent has committed  
11      an act of incest with the minor subject to subsection (a).

12              “(d) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this sec-  
13      tion—

14              “(1) the term ‘abortion’ means the use or pre-  
15      scription of any instrument, medicine, drug, or any  
16      other substance or device—

17                      “(A) to intentionally kill the unborn child  
18                      of a woman known to be pregnant; or

19                      “(B) to intentionally prematurely termi-  
20                      nate the pregnancy of a woman known to be  
21                      pregnant, with an intention other than to in-  
22                      crease the probability of a live birth or of pre-  
23                      serving the life or health of the child after live  
24                      birth, or to remove a dead unborn child;

1           “(2) the term ‘actual notice’ means the giving  
2 of written notice directly, in person, by the physician  
3 or any agent of the physician;

4           “(3) the term ‘constructive notice’ means notice  
5 that is given by certified mail, return receipt re-  
6 quested, restricted delivery to the last known ad-  
7 dress of the person being notified, with delivery  
8 deemed to have occurred 48 hours following noon on  
9 the next day subsequent to mailing on which regular  
10 mail delivery takes place, days on which mail is not  
11 delivered excluded;

12           “(4) the term ‘law requiring parental involve-  
13 ment in a minor’s abortion decision’ means a law—

14                   “(A) requiring, before an abortion is per-  
15 formed on a minor, either—

16                           “(i) the notification to, or consent of,  
17 a parent of that minor; or

18                           “(ii) proceedings in a State court; and

19                   “(B) that does not provide as an alter-  
20 native to the requirements described in sub-  
21 paragraph (A) notification to or consent of any  
22 person or entity who is not described in that  
23 subparagraph;

24           “(5) the term ‘minor’ means an individual who  
25 has not attained the age of 18 years and who is not

1 emancipated under the law of the State in which the  
2 minor resides;

3 “(6) the term ‘parent’ means—

4 “(A) a parent or guardian;

5 “(B) a legal custodian; or

6 “(C) a person standing in loco parentis  
7 who has care and control of the minor, and  
8 with whom the minor regularly resides,  
9 as determined by State law;

10 “(7) the term ‘physician’ means a doctor of  
11 medicine legally authorized to practice medicine by  
12 the State in which such doctor practices medicine, or  
13 any other person legally empowered under State law  
14 to perform an abortion; and

15 “(8) the term ‘State’ includes the District of  
16 Columbia and any commonwealth, possession, or  
17 other territory of the United States, and any Indian  
18 tribe or reservation.”.

19 **SEC. 4. CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**

20 The table of chapters at the beginning of part I of  
21 title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after  
22 the item relating to chapter 117 the following new items:

- “117A. **Transportation of minors in circumvention of certain laws relating to abortion** ..... 2431
- “117B. **Child interstate abortion notification** ..... 2435”.

1 **SEC. 5. SEVERABILITY AND EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2 (a) The provisions of this Act shall be severable. If  
3 any provision of this Act, or any application thereof, is  
4 found unconstitutional, that finding shall not affect any  
5 provision or application of the Act not so adjudicated.

6 (b) This Act and the amendments made by this Act  
7 shall take effect 45 days after the date of enactment of  
8 this Act.

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