



SCHOLARS
STRATEGY NETWORK

Alabama's Total Abortion Ban and the Red Flag You Missed

Grace Elizabeth Howard, San Jose State University

Meghan Eagen-Torrko, University of Washington Bothell

On Wednesday afternoon, Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey (R) signed the most restrictive abortion law in the United States—a total ban on abortion at any time in the pregnancy, with an exception for risk to the pregnant person's life, but no exception in cases of rape or incest. The law turns abortion into a class A felony, punishable by up to 99 years in prison.

Many decry this legal development as a dangerous and unprecedented step to curtail reproductive rights in a post-*Roe* era. For us—a political scientist who studies reproductive law, and a nurse clinician-researcher specializing in reproductive care—it seems like a natural next step.