



## Action alert



### Tell Ducey: don't block abortion access during lockdown

This last week, five states — Texas, Ohio, Iowa, Oklahoma, and Alabama — are shamelessly using the COVID-19 pandemic as an excuse to block access to abortion, claiming it is non-essential and can be delayed. Some Arizona conservatives [are publicly calling](#) for the Governor's office to join them.

This action is both unconstitutional and inhumane, placing religious political interests above the public health.

At this time, abortion is [not currently specified as a "non-essential" surgery](#) halted by Governor Ducey's COVID-19 emergency order. However, conservative lawmakers face tremendous pressure from Christian Nationalist and other powerful anti-choice lobbies.

We must send a pre-emptive message to the Governor's office to keep abortion available as an essential, time-sensitive medical procedure that is accessible during the pandemic.

[Sign and share the petition](#)

## AZ Legislative Updates

As COVID-19 cases continue to grow, state legislators may be rethinking how long they may remain adjourned.

Senate President Fann (R) and House Speaker Pro Tempore TJ Shope (R) recently told



reporters that they are skeptical of the originally-planned April 13th return date. Minority Leader Charlene Fernandez (D) said she's received no signal from the majority party as to what Ducey's "stay-at-home" executive order for all of April means for the return of the Legislature.

The Senate GOP leadership plans to hold socially-distant meetings about once a week at the Capitol to talk through the latest changes.

Both chambers have changed their rules to allow members to vote remotely if needed, but consider it a "last resort." House leadership has insisted that a full-remote Legislature remain off the table.

Secular AZ will continue to monitor Capitol activities during the pandemic.

## Take Our Survey

We want to know what our supporters find most helpful in a time when things seem uncertain, and when the legislature isn't functioning in its typical capacity.

*What can Secular AZ provide to you, and what's the best way to provide it?*

Please take a few minutes to [complete a quick survey](#) that'll allow you to express your opinion on the issues facing secular Arizonans at this time, and to let us know what you need and how Secular AZ can best help.

We'll use your responses when we reach out to keep our community engaged and informed. To start the survey, [please click here](#).

## National News:

[How Guns and Church Services Became Essential Business](#)

[Texas pastors demand a "religious liberty" exemption to coronavirus stay-at-home orders](#)

[Group Behind Central Park Coronavirus Tent Hospital Asks Volunteers To Support Anti-Gay Agenda](#)

[Hotze, pastors ask Texas Supreme Court to rule Harris County stay-at-home order unconstitutional](#)

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