

# [***Biden Admin Issues Final Rule Tightening Abortion Record Access In Investigations***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6BVW-RH71-DXXD-71WN-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Body**

[*Link to Image*](https://cdn01.dailycaller.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/GettyImages-1434482269-scaled-e1713815235922.jpg)

President Joe Biden's Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced a new rule on Monday cracking down on prosecutors' ability to obtain abortion records.

The [*rule*](https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/hipaa-privacy-rule-support-reproductive-health-care-privacy.pdf) strengthens a 1996 privacy law, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act ([*HIPAA*](https://dailycaller.com/2022/07/13/doctor-who-spread-story-about-10-year-olds-abortion-disciplined-for-hipaa-violation-report/)), by providing protections for those seeking an abortion, as well as those who perform the procedure, [*according*](https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2024/04/22/biden-harris-administration-issues-new-rule-support-reproductive-health-care-privacy-under-hipaa.html) to a HHS press release. The new provision takes [*aim*](https://www.axios.com/2024/04/22/biden-abortion-records-patients-hipaa-investigations) at the various red states that have imposed abortion restrictions since the [*overturning*](https://dailycaller.com/2022/06/24/roe-v-wade-overturned-supreme-court-dobbs-v-jackson-womens-health/) of Roe v. Wade in 2022. [***(RELATED: Biden Admin Proposes Rule To Obstruct States' Abortion Investigations)***](https://dailycaller.com/2023/04/12/biden-admin-hhs-rule-abortion-travel-state-prosecution/)

“Many Americans are scared their private medical information will be being shared, misused, and disclosed without permission,” HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra said in a statement. “This has a chilling effect on women visiting a doctor, picking up a prescription from a pharmacy, or taking other necessary actions to support their health.”

“The Biden-Harris Administration is providing stronger protections to people seeking lawful reproductive health care regardless of whether the care is in their home state or if they must cross state lines to get it. With reproductive health under attack by some lawmakers, these protections are more important than ever,” Becerra added.

[*Link to Image*](https://cdn01.dailycaller.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/GettyImages-2147888184.jpg)

PHOENIX, ARIZONA - APRIL 17: Members of Arizona for Abortion Access, the ballot initiative to enshrine abortion rights in the Arizona State Constitution, hold a press conference and protest condemning Arizona House Republicans and the 1864 abortion ban during a recess from a legislative session at the Arizona House of Representatives. (Rebecca Noble/Getty Images)

The Biden administration first [*announced*](https://dailycaller.com/2023/04/12/biden-admin-hhs-rule-abortion-travel-state-prosecution/) its plans in April 2023 to help protect women who are traveling out of state for an abortion from investigation. HIPAA had [*allowed*](https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/privacy/guidance/phi-reproductive-health/index.html) for the disclosure of some health information to law enforcement officials.

Melanie Fontes Rainer, director of the HHS' Office for Civil Rights, said that following the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization decision, health care providers have voiced concerns over whether the records of their patients who travel to see them will be requested.

“Patients and providers are scared, and it impedes their ability to get and to provide accurate information and access safe and legal health care,” Fontes Rainer said in a statement. “Today's rule prohibits the use of protected health information for seeking or providing lawful reproductive health care and helps maintain and improve patient-provider trust that will lead to improved health outcomes and protect patient privacy.”

The rule follows an Arizona Supreme Court decision [*allowing*](https://dailycaller.com/2024/04/21/arizona-abortion-republicans-democrats-election/) an 1864 law to take effect that prohibits abortion in all cases except for when the life of the mother is at risk. [*Abortion*](https://dailycaller.com/2024/03/29/how-abortion-may-shape-bidens-chances-2024-election/) will likely be on the ballot in the battleground state this fall, potentially joining Florida, New York and Maryland.

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**Graphic**

WASHINGTON, DC - OCTOBER 18: U.S. President Joe Biden speaks at a Democratic National Committee event at the Howard Theatre on October 18, 2022 in Washington, DC. With three weeks until election day, in his remarks Biden highlighted issues pertaining to women's reproductive health and promised to codify access to abortion. (Photo by Anna Moneymaker/Getty Images)

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