

10/20/2025



# OFFICIAL BI-WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

## ABORTION

### BridgeUTK's newsletter is here!

October 20, 2025

Thank you for joining us for BridgeUTK's newsletter! We hope you had a great weekend. Keep reading for a note from the Exec Board, quick facts and contributor articles on our 10/20 meeting topics and internship opportunities.

### BridgeUTK News

#### Executive Board Statement

Hey everyone! We had a great discussion last meeting at our debate a professor event! This week we will be discussing abortion.

We hope to see you in Baker 118 at 6 p.m. on Oct. 20.

### Contributors

#### Connor Corby:

Abortion is an issue that is probably the most contentious in American politics, and I attribute that to differences in realities. I am not writing this piece to show my stance but to merely try to help people understand where others are coming from. When I hear arguments about abortion, I hear language such as "baby killers", "haters of women", and people yelling about rights or life. These are not constructive to the greater conversation but speak to people's opinions regarding this issue. So first, what does pro-life think about the issue of abortion? Their big claim is that fetuses are living and human. Evidence to back that statement up is that at 5 weeks there is a heartbeat and movement at 8 weeks showing signs or life. Fetuses also have their own genetic code and by all means humans are just not fully independent to live in the world. The idea that fetuses are human play into the narrative of the fact that abortion is murder. Nearly 60 million fetuses have been aborted which in the eyes of pro-lifers is 60 million American deaths. That is 46 times more than American deaths in every war combined. Which gives clarification to the determination of pro-lifers to end abortion with claims that abortion in the United States is a form of pure evil. There are some additional claims that society accepts that fetuses are people outside of abortion with the infamous example of a pregnant woman getting killed as a double homicide. Pro-lifers largely believe that fetuses deserve a chance to live in the world and abortion is an obstacle to that goal (Americans United on Life). Now, what does pro-choice think about the issue of abortion? There are four main points in the pro-choice argument: abortion is safe, abortions endanger other forms of healthcare, abortion is bodily autonomy, and abortion is a human right. The first argument is pretty straight forward, maternal deaths are rarer than deaths from plastic surgery with maternal deaths being 0.7 mothers per 100,000. Secondly, abortion bans can cause a stripping of treatment for nonviable pregnancies that are incredibly dangerous and almost always result in the babies death so abortion needs to be protected if these situations arise. Thirdly, abortion is protecting bodily autonomy and allows women to choose whether or not to go through with the pregnancy. Abortion is a way out of childbirth for those that can't afford medical expenses or can't afford having a(nother) child. The last point of abortion being a human right ties into the third point that humans deserve to have control of their bodies and to remove that is a heinous act of government infringement on citizens. Pro-choice say that they don't say that abortion is healthcare and protection to women that could die in pregnancy and allow women autonomy of their bodies (Britannica). This topic is very controversial and I am trying to help others see where people are coming from when they say their stances on the topic. There are obviously outliers that have extreme views on abortion with people saying, "Your body, my choice" or "I am not pro-choice because I think that everyone should get an abortion" are people that I very strongly disagree with. These extremities take a point and make it very wrong but the main points of pro-choice and pro-life are deserving of observation and understanding.

#### William Bricker: Abortion

The discourse surrounding abortion is a clear demonstration of the right's constant struggle to control the lives of women. When more than 99% of abortions happen before the third trimester, (1) there is no sound argument to be had that there is a termination of meaningfully conscious life. This is merely a ploy to further subjugate women. If the right actually were "pro-life" in any meaningful sense, congressional Republicans would not have just made cuts to Medicaid estimated to kill an additional 50,000 people annually. (2) They would be supporting generous cash transfers to parents and universal healthcare if they cared about the flourishing of life, but instead they attack a woman's right to choose because they care about destroying women's bodily autonomy.

1 - Gomez, I., Salganicoff, A., & Sobel, L. (2025, August 9). Abortions later in pregnancy in a Post-Dobbs era. KFF.

<https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/abortions-later-in-pregnancy-in-a-post-dobbs-era/>

2 - Stark, K. (2025, July 1). Experts: Medicaid Cuts Could Prove Fatal for Thousands - Penn LDI. Penn LDI. <https://ldi.upenn.edu/our-work/research-updates/experts-medicaid-cuts-could-prove-fatal-for-thousands/>

### About Our Contributors

BridgeUTK does not endorse anything written by our contributors. Submissions are lightly edited for grammar. We ask for the opinions of individuals and political organizations on campus with the aim of fostering freedom of speech and sharing thought-provoking perspectives with our readers.

Interested in submitting? Fill out this form (and be entered in a gift card raffle).

<https://forms.gle/m9bYVQw7CMpWL75V9>

### Internship Opportunities

If you are interested in a potential career in political science, public policy, or other BridgeUTK related fields, our newsletter will feature internships you can apply for! This week's newsletter highlights positions in international relations:

The U.S State Department internship program gives students a paid opportunity to work in D.C. or other Department offices focused on foreign affairs.

An internship at the United Nations offers students experiences in diplomacy and public policy, read more here.



OFFICIAL BI-WEEKLY NEWSLETTER