



Supreme Court decision won't prohibit treatment of dying moms, doctors say

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WASHINGTON (TND) — In the wake of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, rumors about how it could impact pregnancies that threaten the life of the mother have been circulating online.

Particularly, critics have speculated that “ectopic pregnancies,” which are nonviable and life-threatening, would not legally be able to be treated as a result of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe*.

“Do I abort this ectopic pregnancy to literally save my life or do I go to jail?” Daily Beast columnist Wajahat Ali asked on social media.

Pro-choice activists have insisted states with so-called “trigger laws,” which are laws on the books limiting abortion that have or will go into effect as a result of *Roe*'s reversal, will prohibit doctors from providing life-saving medical care to dying mothers.

Arkansas, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and Wyoming all have such "trigger laws," while five additional states – Alabama, Arizona, Michigan, West Virginia, and Wisconsin – still have abortion bans on the books from before *Roe*'s 1973 decision that will now go back into effect, according to [Fox News](#).

But, as noted by [The New York Times](#), those 13 states with "trigger laws" all have exemptions that allow abortion care when the life of the mother is at risk.

Furthermore, according to emergency medicine physician Dr. Jonathan Baugh, ectopic pregnancies "easily" fall outside the purview of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe*.

*There's a lot of misconception about the way that an ectopic pregnancy, or other life saving situations are effected by this *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision," Baugh told [The National Desk \(TND\)](#). "These 'trigger laws' is something that we actually discussed in our own group, because Utah falls into one of those states where I practice the majority of my medicine, but ectopic pregnancy is one of those*

situations that easily falls outside of those trigger laws and is defined specifically as falling outside of those trigger laws.

There will be situations like this over the next little while, while providers are making certain that they are following the right rules," Baugh continued, "and that's unfortunate because those rules are really laid out very specifically that obviously the mother's life is utmost important and ectopic pregnancies are not an abortion. This is a medical emergency that needs to be taken care of.

Dr. Jeffrey Singer, a senior health policy fellow at the Cato Institute, told TND he "can't believe" any state's abortion laws would prevent the saving of any woman's life.

I am not an Ob/Gyn doctor, but I am a general surgeon and, to be fair, any person with a medical degree should know that an ectopic pregnancy is nonviable. Not removing an ectopic pregnancy will likely lead to the mother's demise and offers no hope of the embryo/fetus surviving," Singer told TND.

Some have theorized about the possibility of transplanting an ectopic pregnancy to the inside of the uterus so it can survive. But at this point, that is mere theory – medical science has not yet developed the technology or means of doing so. In fact, it is blatant malpractice," Singer continued. "So I can't believe that any state's abortion law would prevent a doctor from saving the life of the mother in these circumstances.

Top Democrats from Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., to Senate Democrat leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., have insisted that Republican efforts to overturn Roe and limit abortion in the U.S. will cost women their lives.

“If the MAGA Republicans get their way, pregnant women could lose their lives,” warned Schumer back in May, “because there will be no exception for the life of a mother if there’s a dangerous complication in the pregnancy.”

“A lot of these state laws are very poorly written,” Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., said on Instagram Friday. “I’m sorry, but a bunch of men who are very ignorant about medicine, biology, rape culture, and the misogyny that they were raised in, including legal liability and how it factors in with the medical field – people who are ignorant to all of that are the ones that are writing these laws. Some of them were even written in the 1800s,” she continued. “So don’t tell me that people in the 1800s knew what an ectopic pregnancy was.”

However, according to pro-life digital news outlet LifeNews.com, the first surgery to treat an ectopic pregnancy occurred as early as at least 1883.