# Arizona Supreme Court Delays Enforcement of 1864 Abortion Ban Amid Ongoing Legal Battles



On April 17, 2024, members of Arizona for Abortion Access, a group advocating for abortion rights, held a press conference and protest at the Arizona House of Representatives in Phoenix. They were protesting against the Arizona House Republicans and the state’s 1864 abortion ban, which dates back to the Civil War era. The event occurred during a recess from a legislative session.

Simultaneously, developments regarding the 1864 abortion ban have been unfolding in Arizona's legal and political landscape. Democratic Governor Katie Hobbs signed a bill on May 2, 2024, repealing the old ban. However, the repeal is set to take effect only 90 days after the legislative session ends, which is still ongoing. As a result, there was a concern that the old ban could temporarily be enforced.

In response to these concerns, on April 25, 2024, the Arizona Supreme Court issued an order delaying the enforcement of the 1864 ban. The court granted a 90-day stay at the request of the state's Attorney General, Kris Mayes. This stay is effective until August 12, allowing time for potential review by the US Supreme Court.

Additionally, Attorney General Mayes highlighted that due to an additional 45-day delay stipulated in a separate case, the earliest the 1864 ban could be reinstated would be September 26, 2024. Kris Mayes expressed her commitment to ensuring medical professionals can provide care based on current standards rather than outdated laws.

Despite the stay, a motion from Planned Parenthood Arizona to extend the delay until the new repeal fully comes into effect was denied by the court. This ongoing legal situation reflects the complex and evolving nature of abortion legislation in Arizona.