# Louisiana Governor Signs Bill Making Abortion-Inducing Drugs Controlled Substances



Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry signed a new bill into law on Friday, classifying the abortion-inducing drugs mifepristone and misoprostol as Schedule IV controlled dangerous substances. This legislation, the first of its kind in the United States, categorizes these medications alongside narcotics and depressants. The law criminalizes possession of the drugs without a prescription and administering them without the recipient's consent. Violators could face up to five years in prison and fines of up to $5,000, although pregnant women using the drugs for their own consumption are exempt from penalties. Louisiana doctors are allowed to prescribe these medications.

Opponents, including numerous physicians, argue that the drugs are not inherently dangerous and are critical for various reproductive health care uses. They warn that the reclassification could impede access to necessary care. Supporters, including Republican lawmakers and anti-abortion advocates, claim the law protects women from coerced abortions.

Abortion is already banned in Louisiana, with no exceptions for rape or incest. The new law comes amidst ongoing national debates about abortion rights following the Supreme Court's 2022 overturning of Roe v. Wade. The Supreme Court is expected to decide on a related case challenging the FDA’s approval of mifepristone by July.