# Political Debate Surrounds Tennessee Senate Vote on IVF Rights and Reproductive Legislation



### Tennessee Senate Votes on IVF Rights Sparks Debate Amid Political Climate

On Thursday, Tennessee's U.S. Senators, Marsha Blackburn and Bill Hagerty, voted against the "Right to IVF Act," a measure aimed at codifying the right to use fertility treatments, including in vitro fertilization (IVF), into federal law. Senate Democrats had pushed for the vote to put Republicans on record regarding reproductive rights ahead of the 2024 elections.

Despite public statements supporting IVF access, both Blackburn and Hagerty criticized the bill as a political maneuver by Democrats. Critics of the legislation argue it could lead to federalizing abortion access issues, which were delegated to states by the Dobbs decision.

This vote followed a Senate block of a bill by U.S. Sens. Ted Cruz and Katie Britt that would have prohibited bans on IVF and withheld Medicaid funding from states that restricted fertility treatments. Blackburn and Hagerty reiterated their support for IVF in statements condemning Democrats' actions as fearmongering tactics.

Additionally, the Southern Baptist Convention, a significant Protestant denomination, voted to condemn IVF treatments, adding another layer of complexity to the ongoing debate.

In related reproductive rights news, the U.S. Supreme Court dismissed a case challenging mifepristone's legality, a drug used for abortions, further stirring the political conversation around these issues.

The political atmosphere also included a significant defense policy bill vote in the House, passing with narrow support and introducing restrictions on abortion and transgender medical care in the military. The bill, worth $895 billion, included conservative policy dictates, reflecting the current political divide.

As Tennessee navigates these contentious topics, local and national implications continue to unfold, impacting upcoming elections and broad legislative landscapes.