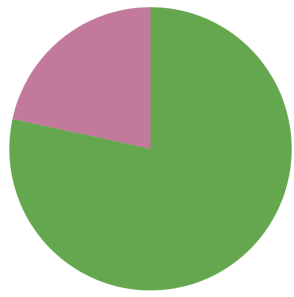


What's Your Opinion?

Generally, are you pro-choice or pro-life on abortion?

Out of 74 responses:
Pro-Choice -- 58
Pro-Life -- 16



● Pro-Choice ● Pro-Life

We need to support Arkansas' new fight for abortion rights

ANNA COX
SPORTS EDITOR



Anna Cox is a junior English and global studies major from Paragould.

Arkansas for Limited Government has drummed up a new fight for women's right to an abortion.

The organization has proposed a new addition to Arkansas's total abortion ban, adding new exemptions to the current bill. As it reads, the only exemption is for the mother's life.

The new exemptions would be for rape, incest, fatal fetal anomalies and to protect the mother's life.

This comes after what would have been the 51st anniversary of Roe v. Wade becoming the law of the land.

In a post-Roe world, women are now having to fight for the right to get an abortion in Arkansas if she has been raped. She does not automatically have that right unless she is dying.

Chelsea and Thomas Stovall from Arkansas were excited when they learned they were having a baby girl. They even had a name for her: Winter.

At 19 weeks the couple was confronted with bad news regarding their child. The baby was developing without a diaphragm while other organs were strangling her heart and compressing the lungs.

Because of the recent overturning of Roe v. Wade as well as Arkansas's strict ban, the couple was forced to look out of state, costing them thousands of dollars.

Although they could get an abortion, that did not make the experience any less traumatic.

"I grew up believing it was wrong. I don't think that way anymore. I just think every woman should have the choice, that women should have the choice to get an abortion if they want to. It's not a dirty word," Thomas told THV11.

Don't think this is just an Arkansas issue. Women and girls in states with similar laws must bear the trauma of being unable to access an abortion.

In Clarksdale, Mississippi, a then 12-year-old girl was outside filming TikToks when a stranger came to the house, pulled her around to the side of the house and raped her.

The victim, called Ashley by Time Magazine to protect her identity, had

to finish 6th grade at home, on her computer.

Ashley could not get an abortion, the closest place being Chicago which was not a financially viable option for the family.

Ashley gave birth to Peanut, the child's nickname, when she was 13 years old. At the time Time's article was written, Ashley's mother was looking into online school options for Ashley until she felt comfortable going back to school.

Ashley had to suffer a rape, nine months, a traumatic birth as well as the future trauma of all these events because of how Mississippi law is. Ashley's trauma is on the Supreme Court and Governor Tate Reeves' hands.

These traumatic experiences would not have happened if the mothers could get an abortion. One couple had to spend thousands as their baby died. The other had to hold a baby while doing her 7th-grade math.

Abortion is healthcare, it's as simple as that.

In the case of fetal abnormalities, mothers should not be forced to birth a baby only to watch it die in their arms.

Babies should not be made to be born only to suffer and die.

We, as voters in Arkansas, have a chance to help individuals like Chelsea and Ashley. We can help make abortion

more accessible as a whole.

This is not a debate that involves religion. This is not a debate that involves a personal question of if you would have an abortion. This is a debate about having the option to when needed.

This is a debate about healthcare, both mental and physical.

This is a debate about dying mothers and dying babies.

Will you sign the petition to help these individuals?

Will you stand by idly, doing nothing, and letting people suffer?

Signing this petition is signing to help those who need it most. Signing this petition is a way to show that you support healthcare rights for everyone.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU NEED AN ABORTION:

ABORTIONFINDER.ORG

NATIONAL ABORTION FEDERATION
HOTLINE : 1-800-772-9100

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF ANNA COX
Resources for those seeking help with getting an abortion.

Next Poll:

Texas vs. Federal Government

Should Texas be allowed to place razor wire along their southern border?

Students can answer the poll on The Herald's Instagram page, [@astateherald](https://www.instagram.com/astateherald). Instagram polls are posted on Mondays. Previous poll results can be found on [astatetheherald.com](https://www.astatetheherald.com). Have an idea for a poll? Send your ideas to heraldopinion1921@gmail.com.

These and future articles can be found on the Opinion section of The Herald's website.

ELIJAH TEMPLETON
OPINION EDITOR



Elijah Templeton is a junior creative media production major from Jonesboro.

Snow days used to mean the same thing to every student in America- a day off from school. Nowadays, you can get different answers on what students do on snow days, making it confusing for everyone.

I am here to propose a solution to this confusion that will make all parties happy: bringing back work-free snow days.

No online class meetings and no make-up assignments, just built-in days that can be added to the end of the school year that allow kids several free days throughout the year.

In Arkansas, Alternative Method of Instruction, or AMI, days were implemented in the 2019-2020 school

Let kids have their snow days back

year to avoid students falling behind in coursework due to factors outside of their control like inclement weather.

In 2023, Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders passed the Arkansas LEARNS Act, overhauling Arkansas' education system and giving many the impression AMI days were a thing of the past.

This was not the case however, as no part of the bill contained provisions that did away with AMI days as we knew them, confirmed by Republican State Rep. Julie Mayberry.

Mayberry was actively working to clarify this fact as recently as November of 2023, illustrating just how confused school districts had been regarding the issue.

Arkansas Attorney General Tim Griffin clarified public schools in Arkansas must have 178 days of on-site learning in the school year to meet requirements for state funding allocated for teacher raises under the new LEARNS Act.

This means that while AMI days are still allowed to be used by schools, they do not count toward that 178-day total, effectively making them unusable if days are not added to the end of the school year.

Before AMI, school districts in Arkansas had built-in days throughout the school year that allowed for missed

days that could then be added onto the end of the year to meet required student attendance marks.

Due to these policies, kids like myself growing up in Arkansas enjoyed these snow days whenever they came around without worrying about make-up work or virtual assignments.

Sure, we ended up having a few extra days of school in May, but it was never bad enough to justify having to do work on snow days.

Students love nothing more than a break from the norm and getting a chance to play in the snow or huddle up inside on a winter day rather than going

to school would be a largely positive thing for them.

A win-win scenario would be to officially do away with AMI and programs like it and fully bring back the policy that allows for built-in work-free days during the winter months on condition that they be made up before the end of the year.

Let kids and teachers both enjoy their snow days without the stress of extra assignments and extra grading.

Work-free snow days are what's best for everyone.

But of course, that's just one man's opinion.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF ADRIENNE ALLS
Student in online class watching his peers get to enjoy their snow day.

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Story ideas or news tips may be emailed to heraldnews1921@gmail.com. The Herald welcomes comments, criticisms or ideas that its readership may have. We encourage you to send a Letter to the Editor to rachel.rudd@smail.astate.edu.

STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The Herald is printed every Wednesday during the semester, except during finals and holidays. Copies of The Herald are free.

CORRECTIONS GUIDELINES

The Herald wants its news reports to be fair and accurate. We correct all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please contact us.

In last week's edition, the name credited for photos 2 & 5 on the photo page should have been Camdon Cobb.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Opinions expressed in personal columns are those of the writers and may not reflect the opinions of the staff as a whole.

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