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# Nebraska Governor Signs Combined Anti-Trans, Anti-Abortion Bill Into Law

This marks “the most significant win for social conservatives in a generation,” Republican Gov. Jim Pillen said.



By Lydia O'Connor

May 22, 2023, 08:21 PM EDT

As expected, Republican Nebraska Gov. Jim Pillen signed a bill Monday that both limits gender-affirming care for young people and outlaws [abortion](#) at 12 weeks of pregnancy.

The abortion ban goes into effect immediately, and the restrictions on [transgender](#) health care for people under age 19 take effect Oct. 1. Unlike in most states, Nebraska law considers everyone in that age group to be a minor.

“Today is a historic day in the State of Nebraska. It is a day where we are standing up and protecting our kids so that they can have a better and brighter future,” Pillen proclaimed in a [statement](#), calling the bill’s passage “the most significant win for social conservatives in a generation.”

The bill as originally written focused on prohibiting transgender people under 19 from having any gender confirmation surgeries. Though Republican lawmakers and conservative media have been raising alarms about such surgeries on minors, they are extremely [uncommon](#). The bill also gives the state’s chief medical officer — who is neither an elected official nor a specialist in transgender health care — the power to set regulations on the use of any puberty blockers or hormone treatments for that age group.



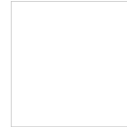
Hundreds of people descended on the Nebraska Capitol on May 16 to protest adding the abortion ban to the transgender health care bill. VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

But after an attempt at a six-week abortion ban failed in the legislature, Republicans added an amendment to the transgender health care bill banning abortion at 12 weeks — infuriating Democrats who slammed it as an abuse of the legislative process.

At Friday’s [final debate](#) on the matter, opponents of the abortion ban accused its supporters of quickly tacking on the amendment without a proper hearing and violating rules about combining unrelated matters onto one bill.

“The reason the abortion part was added was because the transgender part could not pass without it ... and clearly the abortion bill couldn’t pass without the trans bill, because we had to bring it back to life. It’s a zombie bill,” state Sen. John Cavanaugh (D) said during Friday’s debate.

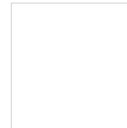
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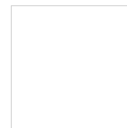
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State Sen. Kathleen Kauth, the bill’s author, argued in a [statement](#) Monday that the amendment was germane because it it’s “all about protecting children.”

Democrats also raised concern about the power the bill gives to the state’s chief medical officer, who is a political appointee.

“The CMO being able to be delegated the authority to create rules and regulations pertaining to how individuals access care is an absolute unlawful, unconstitutional delegation of our authority as a legislature,” state Sen. George Duncan (D) argued Friday.

Opponents of the bill have also pointed out the more obvious concerns: that gender-affirming hormone treatments for youth significantly lower their [high risk](#) of depression, suicide and other mental health problems; and that banning abortion at 12 weeks is not enough time for many patients to seek care, especially as appointment wait times have increased around the country in the wake of Roe v. Wade falling.

But some of the bill’s supporters said Friday they wish the abortion ban could have been more restrictive.

“Many of us feel that the six-week ‘heartbeat’ bill was the answer,” state Sen. John Lowe (R) said during debate. “We’re giving up six weeks as a compromise.”

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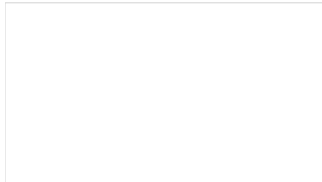
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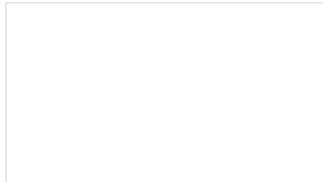
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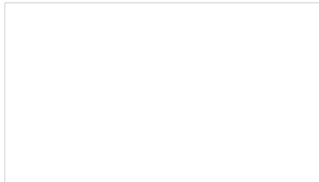
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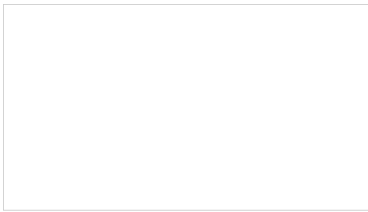
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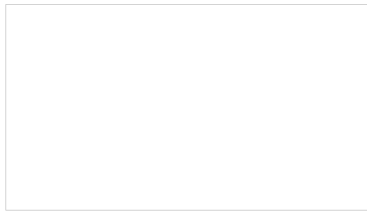
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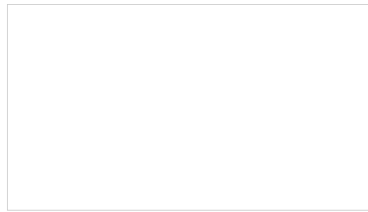
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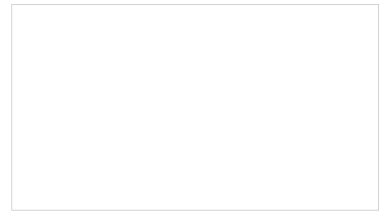
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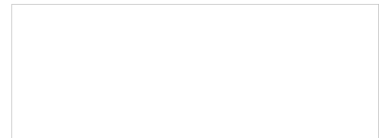
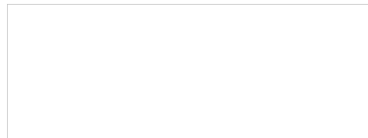
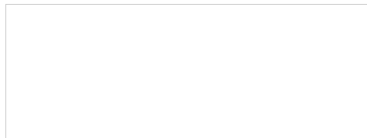
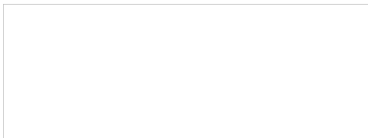
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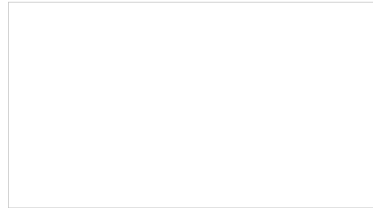
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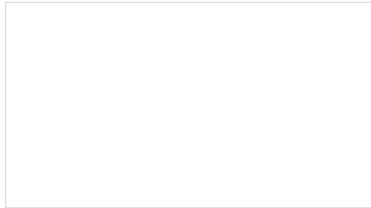
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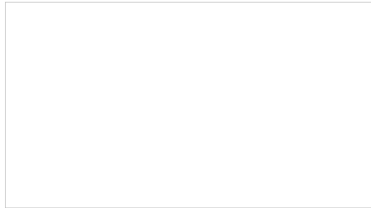
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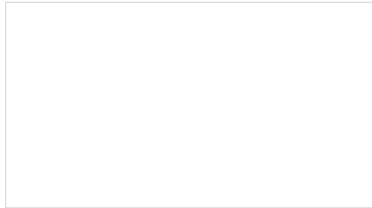
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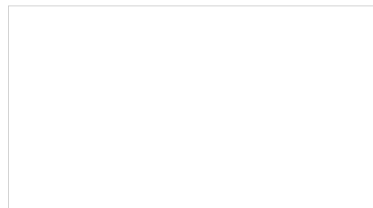
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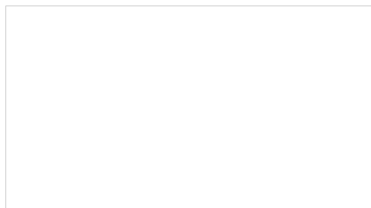
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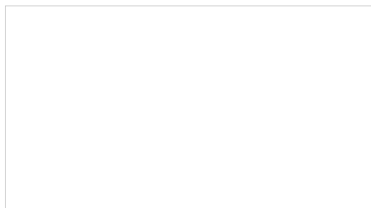
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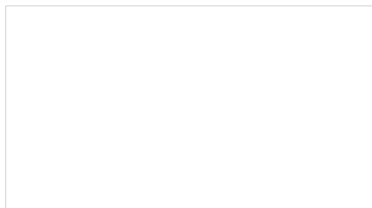
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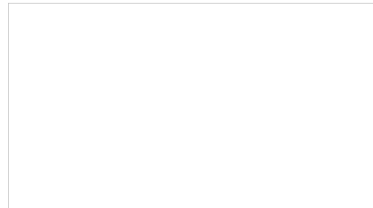
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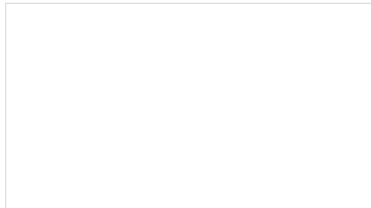
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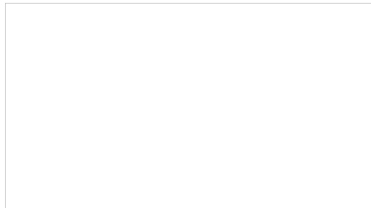
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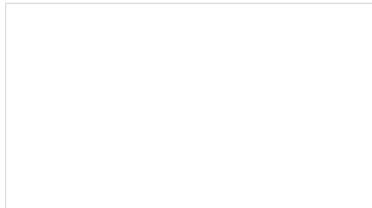
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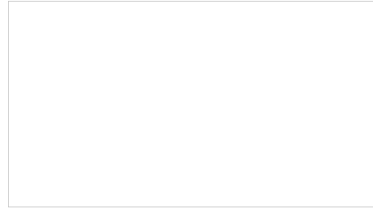
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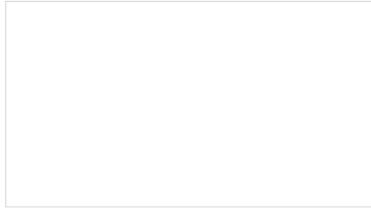
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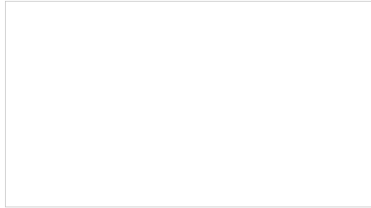
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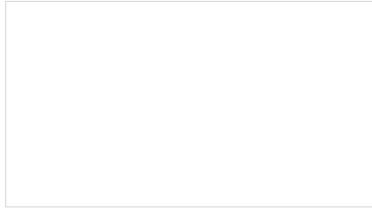
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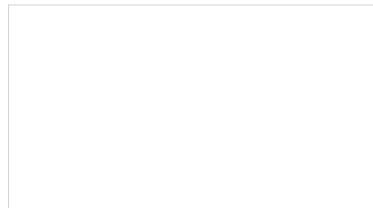
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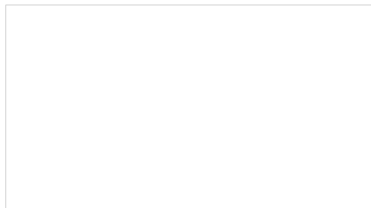
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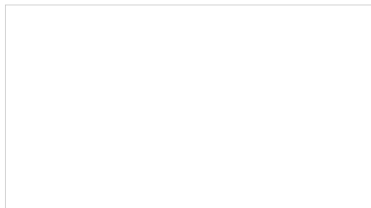
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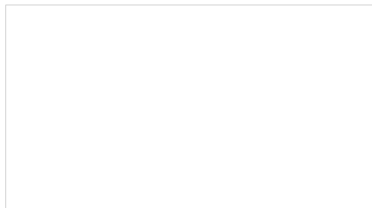
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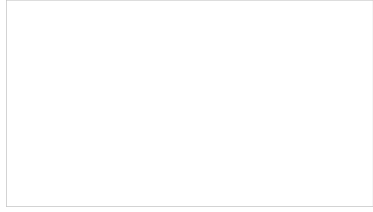


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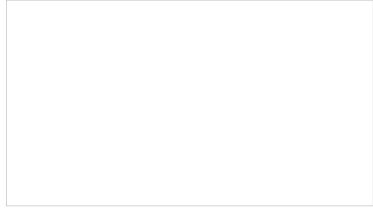


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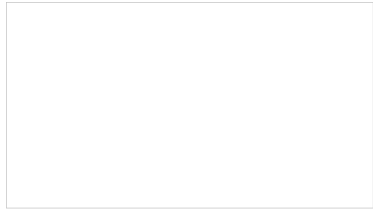
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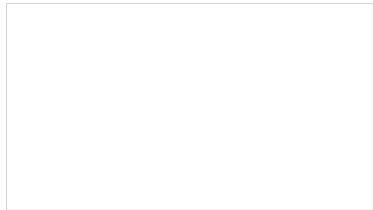
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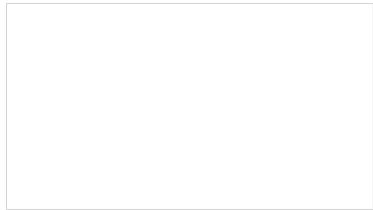
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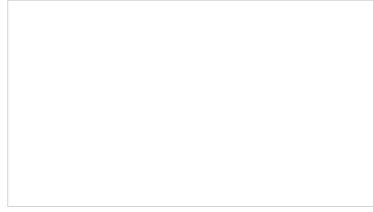


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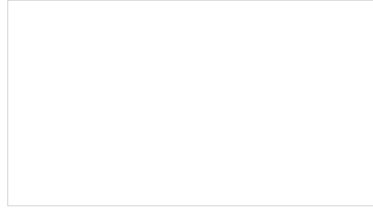


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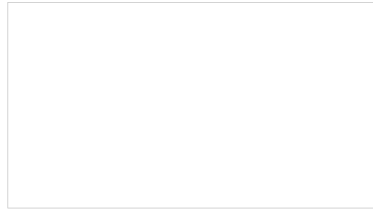
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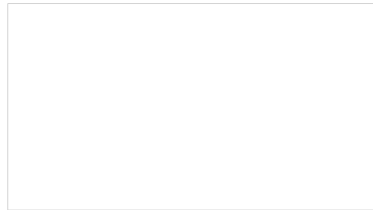
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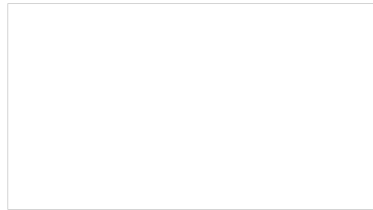
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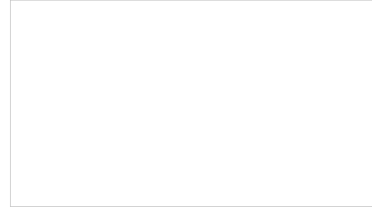


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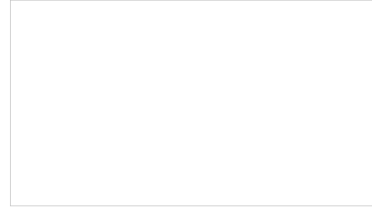


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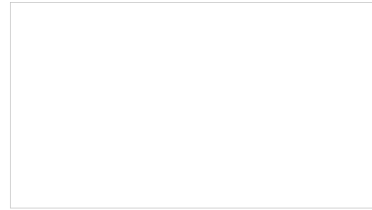
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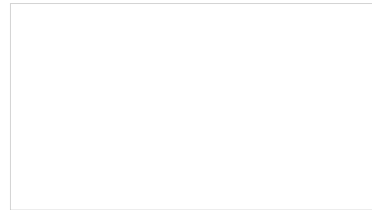
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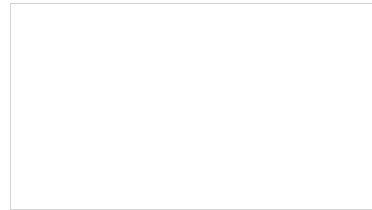
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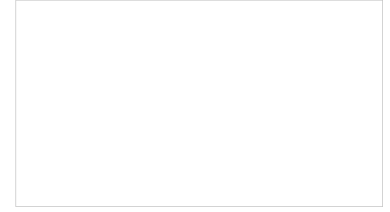


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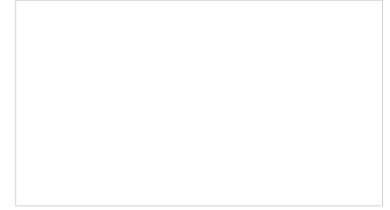


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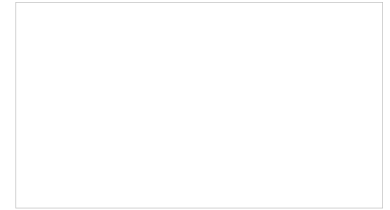
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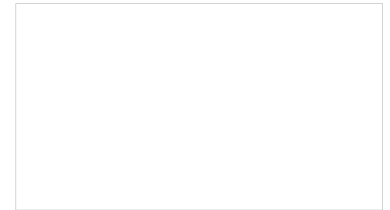
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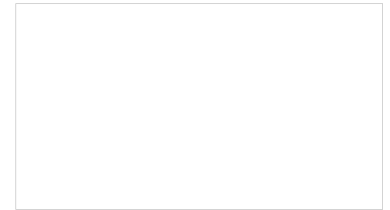
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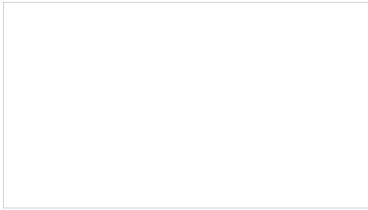
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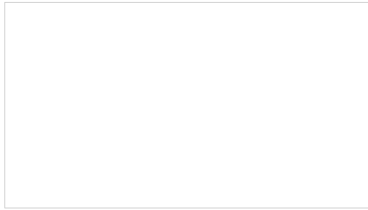
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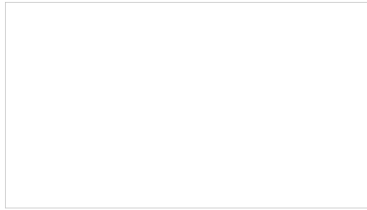
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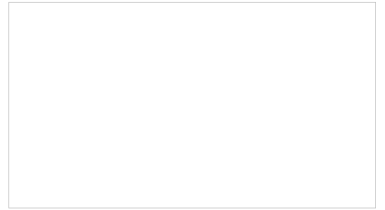
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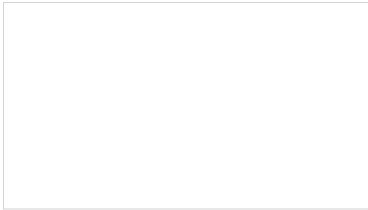
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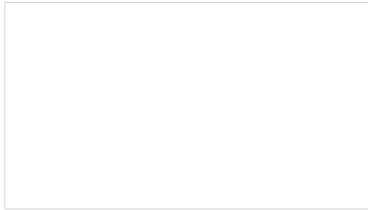
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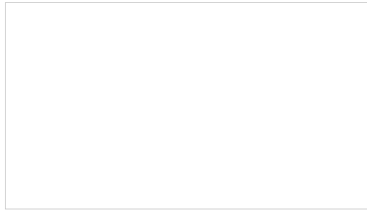
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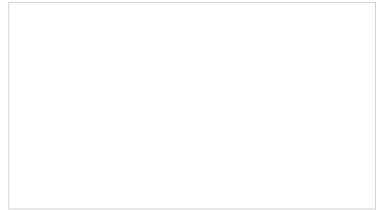
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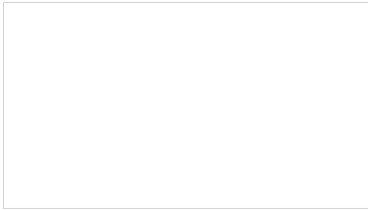
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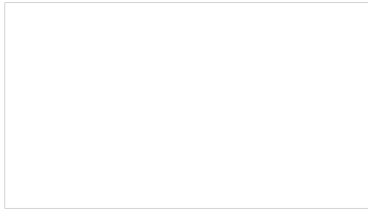
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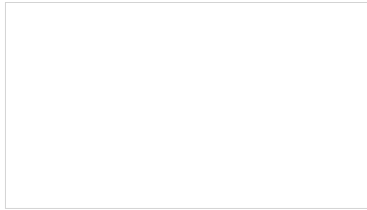
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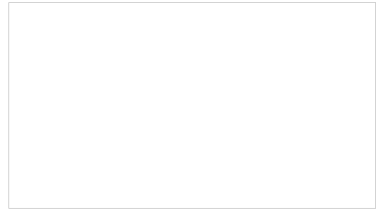
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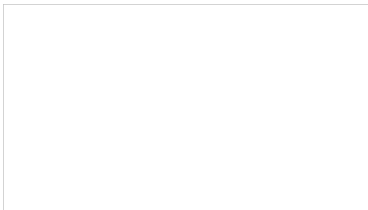
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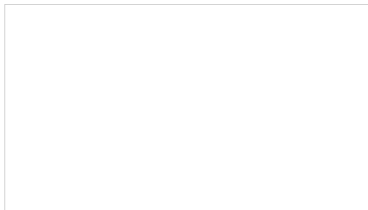
**Judge Dismisses Kari Lake's Last Claim After Losing Arizona Race**



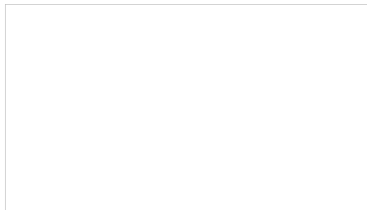
**L.A. Dodgers Apologize For Disinviting Drag Charity To Its Pride Night**



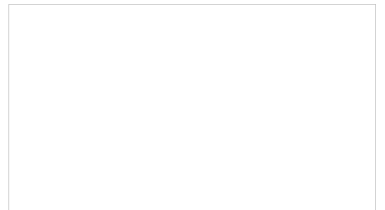
**Montana Governor Signs Controversial Anti-Trans Law**



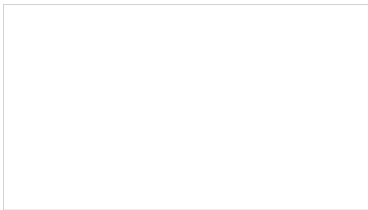
**McCarthy: 'Don't Give Up' On Debt Limit Talks, But Signs Of Progress Prove Elusive**



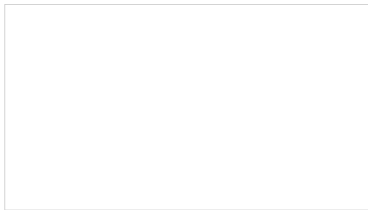
**E. Jean Carroll Asks Court To Increase \$5 Million Trump Judgment After CNN Town Hall**



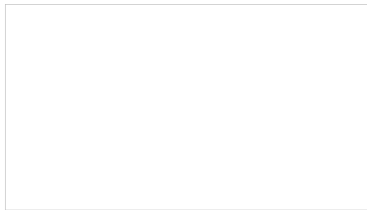
**Sen. Tim Scott's Presidential Announcement Is A Real Scream**



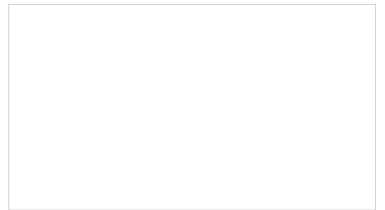
**Rep. Bowman Says He's Staying 'Far Away' From Marjorie Taylor Greene**



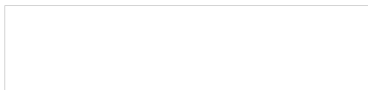
**Jon Hamm Calls Josh Hawley A Coward In Ad For His Opponent**

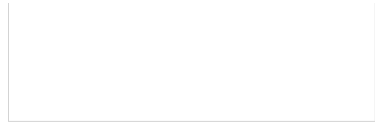


**GOP Rep. James Comer Implies Biden Family Probe Is Really About Helping Trump In 2024**

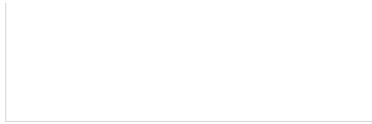


**The Important Difference Between SNAP And Food Stamps**

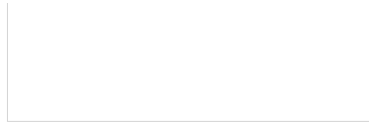




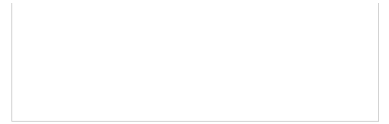
**Democratic Sen. Tom Carper To Retire In 2024**



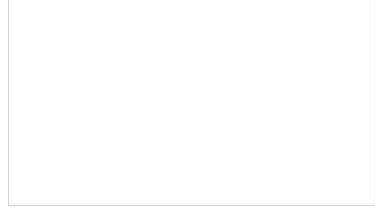
**Janet Yellen Says June 1 Remains 'Hard Deadline' For Congress To Raise Debt Limit**



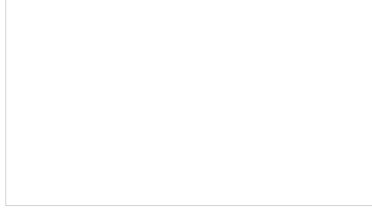
**Dem Points Out The 'Farce' Of Republicans' Demands Amid Debt Ceiling Talks**



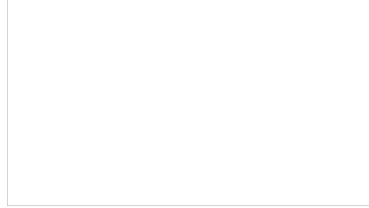
**GOP Strategist Flips Chris Christie's Trump Vow Back At Him**



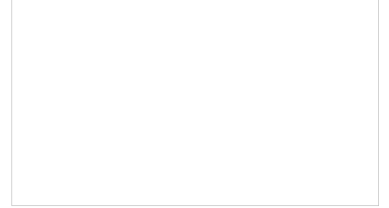
**Tuberville Draws Fire For Holding Hundreds Of Military Promotions 'Hostage' Over Abortion**



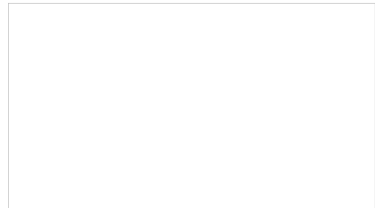
**Ex-RNC Chair Ridicules Jim Jordan With Cold 'Reality' Of Weaponization Claims**



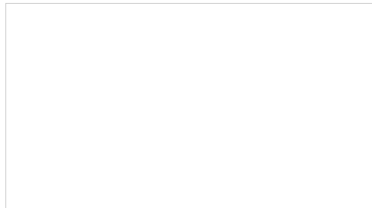
**Former Florida GOP Rep. Considers Drastic Move Because Of Ron DeSantis**



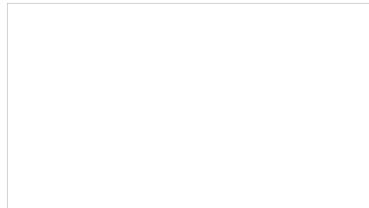
**Ex-White House Lawyer Says Evidence Is Stacked Against Trump In Documents Case**



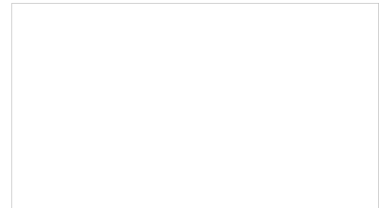
**GOP Senator Thinks Trump Can't Win A General Election For President**



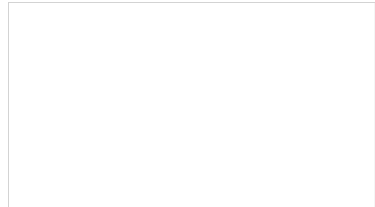
**NAACP Warns Against Travel To Florida Over DeSantis' 'Openly Hostile' Politics**



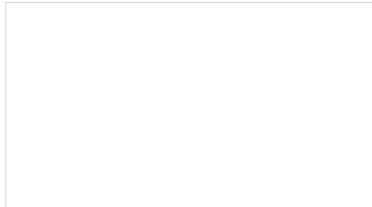
**Biden, McCarthy To Meet Monday For Debt Limit Talks**



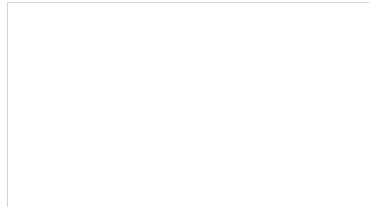
**If Trump 'Finished' His Wall Like He Claims, How Are So Many Migrants Still Crossing?**



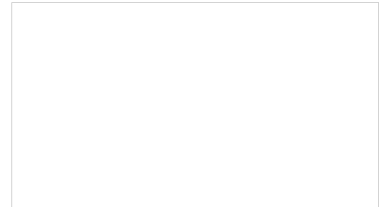
**Ron DeSantis Is About To Run For President. Andrew Warren Has A Warning.**



**North Carolina's Dem Governor Lambastes Republicans Over 12-Week Abortion Ban**



**Lawyer Who Quit Trump Legal Team Cites Disagreements With Trump Adviser As Basis For Departure**



**Another Florida Pride Event Canceled As Other Organizers Dig Their Heels In**

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