

Dear International Fact-Checking Network,

An April 5, 2022 PolitiFact fact check claimed a new Colorado law “does not allow abortions ‘up until the moment of birth.’” Unfortunately, PolitiFact neglected to justify that claim with any kind of reasonable evidence, and its absent argument served as the key to issuing a “False” verdict.

The fact check’s concluding paragraphs aptly sum up its illogical case:

Our ruling

A screenshot of a tweet shared on Facebook claimed: "Colorado Governor Jared Polis has just signed into law a bill legalizing abortions through all nine months, up until the moment of birth."

Colorado’s new law codifies existing protections around an individual’s right to use or refuse contraceptives, continue with a pregnancy and give birth, or to have an abortion.

Abortions that occur later in a pregnancy — at 21 weeks gestation or later — are rare.

We rate this claim False.

It is an illogical leap from “Abortions that occur later in pregnancy ... are rare” to *Abortions that occur later in pregnancy are not legal under the new Colorado law.* The fact check offers the reader no clue as to what logic would adequately justify PolitiFact’s conclusion. In fact, the fact check offers evidence to doubt its proffered conclusion:

Colorado’s law protects the right to have an abortion and does not make distinctions or regulations around a time or stage during pregnancy.

If the law makes no distinctions or regulations around a time or stage of pregnancy, then how do its legal protections fail to stretch until the very moment of birth? PolitiFact leaves that question entirely unexplored, even though it represents the exact crux of the issue.

[I wrote to PolitiFact on April 11, 2022](#) to suggest the fact check’s rationale needed wholesale correction. [As of April 19, 2022](#), PolitiFact had taken no noticeable steps to fix the problems with its fact check.

That inaction would seem to qualify as a failure of PolitiFact’s commitment to an open and honest corrections policy.

If you disagree, or have some unknown reason for not counting multiple examples of this type of thing as a pattern of violation, I would love to hear the rationale supporting that disagreement..

Sincerely,

Bryan W. White

Editor and publisher, Zebra Fact Check