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Labor Minister Speaks Out Against Abortion Ban

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Russia's Minister of Labor and Social Protection Maxim Topilin **Maxim Stulov / Vedomosti**

Russia's Minister of⊠Labor and Social Protection, Maxim Topilin, voiced his objection to⊠the banning of abortion in Russia, the Interfax news agency reported.

Topilin told⊠journalists in Yakutsk on Tuesday that banning abortion was "an old⊠and dusty position," recommending "preventative work" instead.

"I think because⊠of this (a ban on abortion), the harm would be much greater," the⊠minister said, adding that the measure would lead to dangerous⊠illegal abortions.

In June 2016⊠Russia's Interfaith Council, consisting of leaders and⊠representatives of Russia's traditional religions, called for⊠abortion to be removed from the state's compulsory healthcare system.⊠Head of the Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Kirill, also voiced⊠support for a ban on abortion.

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