

THE WOMEN'S HEALTH PROTECTION ACT OF 2013

Keeping Politicians Out of Our Personal Health Care Decisions

Despite the clear constitutional rights established more than four decades ago in the landmark Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade*, each year politicians across the country pass harmful restrictions in an effort to roll back a woman's right to make the best health care decisions for herself and her family.

Any one of these restrictions imposed on health care providers and abortion services can have a devastating impact on the women affected by it. But when all these various attempts to choke off access to abortion work together, the effect is often catastrophic—making a range of essential reproductive health care virtually impossible to obtain for far too many women.

Every pregnant woman faces her own unique circumstances and potential challenges, and she must be able to make her own decisions based on her personal values, the advice of the medical professionals she trusts, and what's right for her family.

We need to ensure that politicians cannot interfere with these complicated, private medical decisions.

Politicians and activists hostile to women's rights and health have been active for years erecting barriers to women's ability to exercise their constitutionally protected right to abortion, whether by blocking clinic doors with violent protests, prohibiting insurance coverage for abortion services, denying services to young women, or trying to regulate abortion providers out of existence. It is this last means of hindering access – laws that single out and target the health care professionals who provide the essential reproductive health care services that women need – that is the focus of the Women's Health Protection Act.

In recent years, politicians have increasingly sought new ways to interfere with personal decision-making and undermine women's access to abortion care. State legislatures have been more active than ever in passing burdensome requirements that single out abortion providers and services and do nothing to advance women's health or safety – and, in fact, ultimately jeopardize women's health. States enacted a record-breaking 92 restrictions on abortion in 2011, and over 100 additional dangerous and unnecessary measures have passed into law since then.

A woman's constitutional rights should not depend on her zip code. But the legislative attacks on reproductive health care have made it so that women in some part of the country have diminished access to essential reproductive health care.

We need a federal law that would make these restrictions unlawful, thus allowing medical providers to do the important work of providing safe, legal, high-quality health care to all women across the country.

We need a federal law that puts women's health and rights first. The Women's Health Protection Act does just that.

The Women's Health Protection Act creates federal protections against state restrictions that fail to protect women's health and intrude upon personal decision-making. It promotes and protects a woman's individual constitutional rights, *no matter where she lives*.

The Women's Health Protection Act protects a woman's health, her ability to make her own decisions, and her constitutional rights.