

COURT AND MEDICAL COMMUNITY AGREE:

Abortion is safe and medically unnecessary regulations harm women

Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt

On June 27, 2016, the Supreme Court declared in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt* that women have a constitutional right to abortion and laws that impose burdens without corresponding benefits are unconstitutional. The case challenged two provisions of a Texas law designed to limit access to abortion:

- A requirement that all abortion providers obtain local hospital admitting privileges
- A requirement that abortion facilities meet hospital-like standards

In addition to failing to meet the standard defined by the Supreme Court, a new report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) explains that these and other regulations are medically unnecessary and hurt women.

STATE REGULATIONS THAT DENY WOMEN CARE:

Regulation	What Sciences Says	Unconstitutional Per Whole Woman's Health Decision	Number of States with the Medically Unnecessary Regulation
Prohibiting nurses, nurse-midwives and physician assistants from performing abortion	These clinicians have the skills and experience to provide abortion care		34
Imposing hospital-like structural standards on facilities providing abortion care	Abortion can be performed safely in an office-based setting		17
Delaying care by imposing mandatory waiting periods	Waiting periods do not improve safety and limit a woman's options for care		26
Mandating that clinicians performing abortion have agreements with a local hospital	Requiring clinicians to have hospital privileges doesn't improve the safety or quality of care		10
Requiring patients to be in the physical presence of a physician to have a medication abortion	Medication abortion through telemedicine is a safe and effective way to access care		19

The Bottom Line:

The consensus across the medical community and the Supreme Court is that medically unnecessary abortion restrictions harm women and are unconstitutional.

To learn more about the report, visit AbortionIsSafe.com