

Restricting Abortion: South Carolina¹

In far too many places throughout this country, it has become extremely difficult for women to safely and legally end a pregnancy. In too many states, politicians have enacted laws that single out the provision of abortion services for restrictions that are more burdensome than those imposed on medically comparable procedures, do not significantly advance women's health or the safety of abortion services, and make abortion services more difficult to access. It's time for politicians to stop interfering with women's personal decision-making. We need a federal law that puts women's health, safety, and rights first. The Women's Health Protection Act does just that.

In South Carolina, the following restrictions are among those that would be unlawful under the Women's Health Protection Act once enacted:

- **REQUIREMENT** that clinics meet structural and other regulatory standards unrelated to patient safety.²
- **REQUIREMENT** that all staff at an abortion clinic have either admitting privileges at a local hospital with "appropriate obstetrical/gynecological services" or a transfer agreement for emergency cases, burdening them with a rule that is not necessary to ensure patient safety nor required of similar health care providers in the state.³
- **REQUIREMENT** that abortion providers who provide abortions beyond 14 weeks have admitting privileges at a local hospital, a medically unnecessary requirement that is designed to prevent qualified, experienced physicians from providing care to their patients.⁴
- **REQUIREMENT** that abortion providers who provide abortions beyond 14 weeks must be board-certified or a candidate for board-certification in obstetrics and gynecology, general surgery, or family practice, though this requirement prevents highly qualified doctors in other specialties from providing abortions.⁵
- **REQUIREMENT** that if an ultrasound is performed prior to an abortion, the provider offer the woman the opportunity to see the image, whether or not the provider believes it is appropriate.⁶ Some patients are required to undergo an ultrasound—even when medically unnecessary.⁷

(Endnotes)

¹ The restrictions highlighted herein are examples of the types of restrictions that the **Women's Health Protection Act** seeks to invalidate. This fact sheet is not intended as a comprehensive guide to abortion restrictions in South Carolina.

² S.C. CODE ANN. REGS. 61-12.101-03; 61-12.201-05, 08; 61-12.301-09; 61-12.401-02; 61-12.501, 03; 61-12.602-06; 61-12.802-09; 61-12.302.

³ S.C. CODE ANN. REGS. 61-12.305(A).

⁴ S.C. CODE ANN. REGS. 61-12.309(B).

⁵ S.C. CODE ANN. REGS. 61-12-309(A).

⁶ S.C. CODE ANN. § 44-41-330(A).

⁷ S.C. CODE ANN. REGS. 61-12.309(D)(3).