

Restricting Abortion: Utah¹

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

- **REQUIREMENT** that forces a woman to wait at least 72 hours and make two separate trips to a provider before she can obtain an abortion.²
- **REQUIREMENT** that abortion providers 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.³
- **REQUIREMENT** that clinics meet structural and other regulatory standards unrelated to patient safety.⁴
- **BAN** on abortions after viability without constitutionally adequate exceptions for the woman's life or health.⁵

“My clinic sees women from Texas, Wyoming, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, and Utah seeking abortion care outside of their state! These women deserve better. The women we take care of from outside of our state shouldn't have to use their valuable resources to purchase plane tickets, bus tickets, or gasoline to travel to Colorado to get an abortion that is their right to have. They should have access to safe and legal abortion in the state in which they reside.”

- Klaira Lerma, counselor at an abortion clinic in Denver, Colorado, 273 miles from the Colorado/Utah border

(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 Utah.

² Counseling may be conducted “at any location in the state” as long as it is face-to-face, so this may not always require two trips to the abortion provider. UTAH CODE ANN. § 76-7-305.

³ UTAH ADMIN. CODE r. 432-600-13.

⁴ UTAH ADMIN. CODE r. 432-600(4).

⁵ UTAH CODE ANN. § 76-7-302.