

## Restricting Abortion: Nebraska<sup>1</sup>

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

- ) **BAN** on the use of telemedicine to provide medication abortion, reducing the potential for access to safe, nonsurgical abortion services and eliminating an important way to expand access to many low-income and rural women.<sup>2</sup>
- ) **BAN** on abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy (an unconstitutional pre-viability ban) with unconstitutionally narrow exceptions for when the life or health of a woman is endangered.<sup>3</sup>
- ) **REQUIREMENT** that if an ultrasound is performed prior to an abortion, the provider must offer the woman the opportunity to see the image and answer questions about the image, whether or not the provider believes it is appropriate.<sup>4</sup>

***"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, 150 miles from the Colorado/Nebraska border

) **REQUIREMENT** that providers who administer medication abortion procedures be licensed physicians,<sup>5</sup> despite recommendations from the World Health Organization that other highly qualified health care providers can safely provide medication abortion.<sup>6</sup>

## (Endnotes)

<sup>1</sup> 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 Nebraska.

<sup>2</sup> NEB. REV. STAT. § 28-335(2).

<sup>3</sup> NEB. REV. STAT. § 28-3,106.

<sup>4</sup> NEB. REV. STAT. § 28-327(3).

<sup>5</sup> NEB. REV. STAT. § 28-335(1) (prohibiting any person other than a licensed physician from performing an abortion).

<sup>6</sup> See World Health Org., Safe Abortion: Technical and Policy Guidance for Health Systems 65 (2nd ed. 2012), available at [http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/70914/1/9789241548434\\_eng.pdf?ua=1](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/70914/1/9789241548434_eng.pdf?ua=1).