

Restricting Abortion: Ohio¹

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

- J **REQUIREMENT** that abortion clinics have a transfer agreement with a local hospital while also banning public hospitals from entering into those same transfer agreements, burdening them with a rule that is not necessary to ensure patient safety nor required of similar health care providers in the state.²
- J **REQUIREMENT** that forces a woman to wait at least 24 hours and make two separate trips to a provider before she can obtain an abortion.³
- J **BAN** on abortion after viability without constitutionally required exceptions for the woman's life or health.⁴
- J **REQUIREMENT** that providers who perform medication abortion procedures be licensed physicians,⁵ despite recommendations from the World Health Organization that other highly qualified health care providers can safely provide medication abortion.⁶

"I'm here today to speak in opposition to the continuous assault on comprehensive reproductive health care by our state elected officials and to demand that Ohio politicians get out of my exam room."

- Dr. Lisa Perriera, a physician in Cleveland Ohio, speaking at the "We Won't Go Back Rally" outside the Ohio Statehouse

) **REQUIREMENT** that prohibits physicians from providing women seeking medication abortion the best medical care available, forcing them to provide the service according to an obsolete protocol, which is less safe, less effective, and more expensive.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 Ohio.
- ² Ohio Admin. Code 3701-83-19(E); Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3727.60(B). Legal challenges to this restriction are ongoing.
- ³ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2317.56(B).
- ⁴ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2919.17.
- ⁵ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. §§ 2919.11, 4731.41.
- ⁶ 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.
- ⁷ Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 2919.123.