

## Restricting Abortion: Utah<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 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.<sup>2</sup>
- ) **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.<sup>3</sup>
- ) **REQUIREMENT** that providers who administer medication abortion procedures be licensed physicians,<sup>4</sup> despite recommendations from the World Health Organization that other highly qualified health care providers can safely provide medication abortion.<sup>5</sup>
- ) **REQUIREMENT** that clinics meet structural and other regulatory standards unrelated to patient safety.<sup>6</sup>
- ) **BAN** on abortions after viability without constitutionally adequate exceptions for the woman's life or health.<sup>7</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 Utah.
- <sup>2</sup> 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.
- <sup>3</sup> Utah Admin. Code r. 432-600-13, presumptively unconstitutional under *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*, 136 S. Ct. 2292, 2310-13 (2016).
- <sup>4</sup> Utah Code Ann. § 76-7-302. (prohibiting any person other than a licensed physician from performing an abortion).
- <sup>5</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).
- <sup>6</sup> Utah Admin. Code r. 432-600(4).
- <sup>7</sup> Utah Code Ann. § 76-7-302.