

## Shot/Chaser: Chief Justice Roberts' Standard on Abortion in Texas

**Shot:** Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh [said](#) he agreed with Chief Justice Roberts on *Roe v Wade* and abortion. Roberts said in his own confirmation hearing that *Roe* was “settled as a precedent of the court.”

**Chaser:** Chief Justice Roberts voted for *every single* abortion restriction he's ruled on. In fact, he voted to let Texas shut down all but 10 clinics for 5.4 million women of reproductive age (down from 40).

This is what Chief Justice Robert's “standard” on abortion looked like in Texas:

### New York Times: [How Did I Get an Abortion in Texas? I didn't.](#)

- “...I was told I would have to wait three to four weeks for the next available appointment. There was no way I could wait that long. Not only would I be carrying a baby I knew wouldn't survive, but that kind of wait could push me past the 20-week mark after which almost all abortions are illegal in Texas.”
- “Women are risking their jobs, spending their life savings, driving hundreds of miles, crossing state lines as I had to — all to exercise a right that the Constitution protects.”

### Reuters: [Up against strict laws, Texas women learn do-it-yourself abortions](#)

- “Susanna was young, single, broke and pregnant in southern Texas where, thanks to the state's strict laws, her chances of getting a surgical abortion at a clinic were slim to none. So she did what an estimated 100,000 women or more in Texas have done - had a self-induced abortion. With the help of a friend, some online instructions and quick dash across the Mexican border for some pills, she addressed the issue of unwanted pregnancy in a state where women are finding abortion services too expensive and too far away.”

### Dallas Morning News: [“Abortion clinic numbers down, second trimester procedures up since law's passage, study shows”](#)

- “Fewer abortion clinics means longer wait times. In Dallas, the average wait for an abortion was less than five days until one clinic closed in June 2015, according to a study by the Texas Policy Evaluation Project. Two abortion clinics remained open in Dallas, but the average wait increased to 20 days. Grossman's team cited overwhelming demand as a likely reason one Dallas facility wasn't able to schedule some patients for abortions.
- “Waits also became longer in other parts of the state in 2015. In Austin, women waited an average of 10 days for an abortion with one facility unable to schedule women without a delay of 23 days. In Fort Worth, waits also stretched to 23 days at one clinic after another facility closed.

- “Data from the Department of State Health Services showed that the number of second-trimester abortions rose 27 percent after HB 2 was passed.”

**New York Times:** [Texas Abortion Law Has Women Waiting Longer, and Paying More](#)

- “Dr. Linda Prine, who provides abortions at a Whole Woman’s Health clinic in Las Cruces, N.M., said more than half of her patients on any given day came from Texas. Sometimes she finds them “sleeping in their cars in our parking lot before we open up in the morning.”
- “Stephanie, a 20-year-old student, said she had recently driven through the night to Albuquerque for an abortion 16 weeks into her pregnancy after she could not come up with the money in time to have the procedure done at a clinic in El Paso, where she lives...her options were limited to the closest such center, 550 miles away in San Antonio, or a regular abortion clinic in New Mexico.”

**Daily Beast:** [Abortion Barriers Hit Latinas the Hardest](#)

- “When Vanessa, a mother of three, learned that the clinics near her in McAllen and Harlingen were closed, she tried to self-induce an abortion with herbs and injections. They didn’t work. The clinic in San Antonio was too far away so she went to Mexico instead but couldn’t get an abortion there, either. In the end, she carried the pregnancy to term and had a child she could not afford to raise.”