

TRAP Law: Mandatory Biannual Inspections, Burdensome Reporting Requirements and Redundant Provisions of Law

[HB 2371](#) - [Rep. Koenig](#) (R-99 Manchester)

This bill imposes medically unnecessary requirements that have nothing to do with women's health or safety. Instead, they are aimed at making it more difficult to access safe and legal abortion.

This bill is a targeted regulation of abortion providers (TRAP) law. It singles out abortion providers for medically unnecessary inspections twice each year. The bill also imposes additional reporting requirements, duplicative medical waste protocols, and a criminal penalty to a procedure that is already illegal. Missouri law already dictates inspections of all ambulatory surgical centers, requires reports, stipulates proper medical waste procedures, and prohibits abortions for the purpose of research or organ donation. These measures do not protect women's health or safety. Rather, they increase the regulatory burden on abortion providers and those with whom they work in an effort to reduce access to safe and legal abortion care.

Targeted regulation of abortion providers (TRAP) laws restrict access to safe and legal abortion under the guise of legitimate regulation. TRAP laws are designed to sound like reasonable efforts to protect patients, but they are not evidence-based and only serve to make it more difficult for abortion providers to exist.

- These burdensome and medically unnecessary regulations that single out abortion providers need to be recognized as part of an effort to drastically reduce access to safe and legal abortion.
- Leading medical authorities, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), oppose TRAP laws because they create barriers to abortion access and put women's health at risk.

Patient health and safety are Planned Parenthood's top priorities and are central to its mission. Every day, Planned Parenthood works to make sure women receive the high-quality health care they need in a safe, respectful environment. That includes providing abortion.

- Abortion is one of the safest medical procedures performed in the United States. Data, including from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), show that abortion has a greater than 99 percent safety record.
- Planned Parenthood adheres to medical standards and guidelines that are informed by the most trusted medical knowledge, as well as professional and scientific organizations, including the CDC, the Food and Drug Administration, the US Preventive Services Task Force, and ACOG.

The twice-annual inspection mandate has nothing to do with women's health or safety.

- The Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) currently determines the inspection schedule for all ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs) in the state as required by law. This additional inspection mandate is neither medically necessary nor based in evidence.
- The inspection mandate singles out abortion providers for increased scrutiny. If this mandate were necessary for patient safety, it would apply to the hundred licensed ASCs in the state where more complicated surgeries on men, women, and children take place every day, rather than the two licensed abortion providers.
- DHSS regularly conducts surveys to ensure Planned Parenthood's compliance with Missouri's extensive health center regulations. It is important that health care providers abide by all applicable laws to protect patient health and safety. However, HB 2371 has nothing to do with patient health and safety, but everything to do with restricting access to safe and legal abortion.