

Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers: Duplicate Inspection Mandate

HB 190 Rep. Swan Cape Girardeau (R-147)
SB 33 Sen. Wallingford Cape Girardeau (R-27)

Reproductive health care services are among the safest and most commonly sought forms of care in the U.S. However, that hasn't stopped the anti-women's health movement from increasing their efforts to eliminate access to abortion through the introduction of TRAP ("targeted restrictions of abortion providers") bills and regulations that place unreasonable requirements on health care centers. TRAP bills stigmatize and burden abortion providers, and chip away at abortion access under the guise of legitimate regulation. As the legislature considers policy that relates to women's health, it's critical to listen to doctors and medical experts who know that legal abortion is safe and that better birth control access reduces the need for abortion.

Patient health and safety is Planned Parenthood's top priority and is 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 CDC, show that abortion has over a 99 percent safety record.
- Excessive, unnecessary regulations that single out abortion providers need be recognized as part of an effort to drastically reduce access to safe and legal abortion.

Like all quality health care providers, abortion providers in Missouri adhere to numerous state and federal regulations to ensure patient safety.

- 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 Center for Disease Control, the Food and Drug Administration, the US Preventive Services Task Force, and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.
- Every medical professional who provides abortion at a Planned Parenthood health center in Missouri is a licensed doctor (i.e. "board-certified physician" and/or nurse), and must have specific training in the provision of abortion services.

Significant restrictions specifically targeting abortion providers are already on the law books in Missouri.

- Currently, ANY provider that performs 5 or more first trimester abortions – surgical or medication – must be specifically licensed under the ambulatory surgical center (ASC) regulations by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.
- Abortion providers are subject to extensive regulations related to personnel, physician qualifications, record keeping, and a process to ensure hospital care for complications, in the rare event that they occur after an abortion, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services already conducts surveys to ensure compliance with the state's existing extensive health center regulations and the targeted restrictions of abortion providers.

Decisions about women's health should be left to a woman, her faith, and her family in consultation with her doctors. A politician's personal beliefs and judgment have no business in the practice of medicine.