

## U.S. Supreme Court Ruling a Victory for Women and Families

Written by GBP Staff

Tuesday, 28 June 2016 08:39 - Last Updated Tuesday, 28 June 2016 10:11

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<http://newiproggressive.com/images/stories/S5/scotus-women-rights-s5.jpg>



***Monday's Supreme Court decision in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt* blocks Texas TRAP law that imposed numerous restrictions on women's access to legal abortion. Ruling will have implications across the country, including here in Wisconsin.***

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MADISON – In the *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt* ruling issued Monday, the U.S. Supreme Court powerfully reaffirmed a woman's constitutional right to make her own decisions about her health, family, and future.

In 2013, Texas legislators passed House Bill 2 (HB2) that imposed numerous restrictions on women's access to legal abortion. HB2 forced doctors who provide abortion services to obtain admitting privileges at hospitals no farther than 30 miles away from the clinic. In addition, every health care facility offering abortion care would be required to meet building specifications of ambulatory surgical centers – which is medically unnecessary.

The Texas law is referred to as a TRAP law for Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers. Such laws single out the medical practices of doctors who provide abortions and impose on them requirements that are different and more burdensome than those imposed on other medical practices. Wisconsin's Republican controlled legislature passed a similar TRAP law here in 2013.

In fact, in her concurrence opinion, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg stated, "Texas argues that HB 2's restrictions are constitutional because they protect the health of women who experience complications from abortions. "In truth, complications from an abortion are both rare and rarely dangerous."



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decisions about her health, family, and future, no matter her zip code,” said State Senator **Chris Larson**

(D–Milwaukee) Monday. “Our neighbors – in Wisconsin and across the country – have the freedom to plan when they want to start a family and a right to protect themselves from unintended pregnancies. Draconian laws, like this and others pushed by legislative Republicans across the country, limit health care options and the opportunity for a woman to protect her health.”

TRAP laws imposing severe restrictions on women’s health centers and providers of abortion services have only one goal in mind: forcing their targets to close their doors. The U.S. Supreme Court striking down HB2 protects access to critical health care services that provide a range of much-needed support for both women and men.

Monday’s ruling will have implications across the country, including here in Wisconsin says Larson; “Wisconsin is all too familiar with similar efforts to restrict reproductive freedom. In fact, just two weeks after the U.S. Supreme Court decided to take the Whole Woman’s Health v. Hellerstedt case, a federal court overruled the burdensome admitting privileges portion of a law Wisconsin Republicans pushed through in 2013.”

“The ruling today protects our cornerstone American principle of individual freedom and reaffirms that politicians have no business in private decisions women make about their health care,” Larson continues. “Accordingly, this ruling reaffirms that political intrusion in such personal decisions is un-American and will not stand. Those of us who are listening to the public will continue the fight to protect and expand reproductive freedom for all by supporting legislation that respects our rights.”



State Senator **Jon Erpenbach** (D-Madison) also commented Monday on the US Supreme Court decision to reject admitting privileges and clinic shutdown laws:

“The decision of the US Supreme Court to protect a woman’s right to access reproductive health care in Whole Women’s Health v Hellerstedt is essential for our sisters, wives, mothers and daughters. Reproductive health care is basic health care for women. Texas passed laws that place barriers for many women seeking health care which violate the principles of the state and

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US Constitution. Protecting access to reproductive health care where it is threatened is essential. I am so thankful there are those that continue to work for the basic rights of women in this country.”