

Abortion Care is Essential, continued

There are insurmountable barriers to accessing healthcare in the US, and abortion is no different. And because of the way that abortion has been over-regulated, politicized, and stigmatized, abortion clinics are often treated differently than their medical peers.

The fact is, abortion care is essential, time-sensitive healthcare and should be treated as such.

Like healthcare providers everywhere, independent abortion clinics are adjusting their practices in accordance with COVID-19 guidance. ACN member clinics are following CDC guidelines and clinical best practices to keep patients and staff safe and healthy, as they always have. In some places, clinics may be scaling back or temporarily pausing some services. Where laws and capacity allow, other clinics are expanding hours, innovating, and providing care via telemedicine. They are all committed to helping patients find and access abortion care.

The challenges that independent abortion clinics and their patients have had to contend with all along have not disappeared. Medically unnecessary restrictions on abortion raised enormous barriers before the pandemic, and those barriers have the potential to become increasingly insurmountable now. Those barriers will continue to disproportionately impact people of color, young people, people with disabilities and underlying medical conditions, poor folks, and other oppressed and marginalized communities.

It's unjust that some patients may not be able to access abortion care because of the way that anti-abortion politicians have tried to push that care out of reach. That was true before the COVID-19 pandemic, and the injustice is simply more stark now.

Keeping patients and providers at the center of our work requires us to ask for what we need during this crisis. To be frank: clinics need financial support to keep their doors open and continue caring for patients.

We know that many people are facing financial pressures, uncertainty, and instability right now. Alarming clinic closure rates mean that patients already have to travel too far for care, and that unjust bans on coverage mean that they must pay out-of-pocket for medical and travel costs. This is a time when we'll all need to take care of each other and ourselves. For those who are able, donating to independent abortion clinics -- always but especially now -- helps ensure that patients can get the care they need.

It's time to care for the caretakers so that they can focus on their patients and communities. Clinics need to be able to pay staff, provide paid sick time and family medical leave, and pay their rent and bills. Those able to support patients and clinics should know that their dollars are helping to take care of both the staff and patients of independent clinics.

The fact is, abortion care is essential, time-sensitive healthcare and should be treated as such.

You can make a gift directly to our member clinics, or donate to www.KeepOurClinics.org to support independent clinics across the United States.

This moment is unprecedented, and independent abortion care providers are rising to the occasion. The need for abortion care continues to exist now and will throughout this pandemic, and our members remain committed to providing that care. We know that we are stronger together, abortion care is essential health care, and independent clinics need our support.



Supreme Court's Oral Arguments in June Medical Services v. Russo

On March 4, 2020 the United States Supreme Court heard oral arguments in *June Medical Services LLC v. Russo*, a case challenging an admitting privileges law in Louisiana. The law in question is identical to the Texas law that was ruled unconstitutional in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt* in 2016. The plaintiff in this historic case is Hope Medical Group for Women, an independent abortion care provider and ACN Member. In Louisiana, all three remaining abortion clinics are independent clinics and ACN Members.

Several ACN staff and members attended the rally outside the steps of the court. We were proud to see so many at the podium, including ACN's executive director Nikki Madsen and deputy director Erin Grant, Hope Medical Group's clinic administrator Kathaleen Pittman, and ACN board members Amelia Bonow (Shout Your Abortion), Ravina Daphtary (All* Above All), Kwajelyn Jackson (Feminist Women's Health Center), and Kenya Martin (National Network of Abortion Funds).

"Independent clinics are providing the majority of abortion care in America, and independent clinics are fighting in the courts for abortion access in communities all across this country. Our communities demand access to health care without stigma, without judgment, and most importantly, without interference between patients and providers. We must take a stand, because we know what happens in Louisiana could change everything. We must unite to keep our clinics."

- ACN Executive Director Nikki Madsen and Deputy Director Erin Grant at Supreme Court rally



CITIES OFFICIALLY DECLARE MARCH 10, 2020 ABORTION PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY!

This year ACN and National Institute of Reproductive Health also partnered with local advocates and providers to call on cities to pass proclamations officially declaring March 10, 2020 Abortion Provider Appreciation Day. Proclamations passed in Atlanta, Austin, Minneapolis, St. Paul, St. Louis, and the state of Washington!

By passing these proclamations, local governments celebrated and honored the integral role abortion care providers play in their communities and the compassionate, dedicated care they provide every day. Local advocates, providers, elected officials, and community members engaged with this project and Abortion Provider Appreciation Day through press, social media, and in-person events. Thank you for supporting abortion providers!

ART FOR CLINICS!

People having and providing abortions deserve to see powerful and affirming messages in their communities, and deserve to be enveloped in beauty and love. That’s why Abortion Care Network is so honored and excited to have partnered with Forward Together and the National Network of Abortion Funds this year to ensure that every independent clinic in ACN’s membership received beautiful art by Kenya Martin, Jasmine Burnett and Micah Bazant to display in a part of the clinic where patients and staff can enjoy it.



CELEBRATING CARE IN OUR COMMUNITIES

On March 10, 1993, Dr. David Gunn was murdered by a white supremacist anti-abortion extremist. As a way to honor the life and work of Dr. Gunn and all of the courageous, compassionate people who provide abortion care, March 10 became the National Day of Appreciation for Abortion Providers (beginning in 1996).

In 2017, Abortion Care Network launched our #CelebrateAbortionProviders campaign, which has become an annual tradition of celebrating and appreciating abortion care providers. Our 2020 campaign theme was Celebrating Care in Our Communities, because while much of the public’s attending is turned toward national issues and events, we do not want to lose sight of the essential work abortion providers and their allies do in their communities every day. This year, we celebrated abortion providers across the country through love notes, art, acts of kindness, messages of affirmation, and a giant love-fest Tweetsorm!

“Abortion is healthcare. I trust people to make the best decisions for themselves and their families. I am deeply honored to be a partner in their care.”

#CelebrateAbortionProviders

DESHAWN TAYLOR, M.D.
Desert Star Family Planning
Phoenix, AZ

ABORTION CARE NETWORK'S 2020 AWARD WINNERS.....



Dr. Ernest Marshall

Gunn Lifetime Achievement Award

This award is given in recognition and celebration of an extraordinary life of service and contribution to abortion care.

Dr. Ernest Marshall opened EMW Women's Surgical Center in 1981 with three other physicians. EMW was licensed as an outpatient surgical center in an effort to protect abortion access in the face of mounting legal restrictions. Though he has been a target of anti-choice hate and harassment, Dr. Marshall and EMW continue to lead the way for the people of Kentucky to ensure abortion access in a state that remains politically hostile to providers and people seeking abortions.

For over 30 years, Dr. Marshall has served his community with compassion, dedication and without judgement. He uses his skills and position to train future abortion care providers, and is generous with time and resources. He does this work knowing that it saves lives, and has lived an extraordinary life of service for patients and the people he serves. That EMW Women's Surgical Center continues to thrive in such a hostile climate is a testament to Dr. Marshall's commitment to abortion access and compassionate high quality care.

Hope Clinic For Women

Granite City, Illinois

ACN Person of the Year Award

This award is given every year to the person or clinic who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in their service and commitment to abortion care.

Hope Clinic for Women is an independent abortion clinic located in Granite City, Illinois. They have been providing care since 1974, and serve patients locally and nationally—over half of their patients travel to them from outside the state. A leader in high quality compassionate care, they have worked diligently to ensure that their practice model can accommodate the number of patients seeking their care while remaining a collaborative and active partner in the national independent abortion provider community.

As politicians continue to legislate and impede access to abortion care, especially in the states surrounding Illinois, staff members at Hope Clinic for Women have been bravely vocal about their work, with regular placements in local and national press highlighting their commitment to the estimated 400 or so patients they see each month. Not only is the staff committed to a holistic abortion care experience in the clinic, but they courageously advocate for practices and policies that protect abortion care, people seeking abortions throughout pregnancy and families.



The Hope Clinic for Women has been a rockstar member of the Abortion Care Network community, providing resources and sharing information with other independent providers, being a model employer that values their team, and continuing to do everything they can to ensure that people around the US have access to just, dignified abortion care.

KEEP OUR CLINICS

Our independent providers depend on your support!

In the last six years, nearly a third of all independent abortion clinics have been forced to close their doors – greatly diminishing access to essential health care in our country. And that was before the COVID-19 pandemic.

92%

of our clinic members indicated a need for financial support to continue providing services throughout COVID-19

**KEEP OUR
CLINICS**

Text "Give" to 612-315-1921

This moment is unprecedented, and clinics are rising to the occasion. People need abortion care now and will continue to need access to compassionate, dignified care throughout this pandemic. Independent providers serve three out of every five patients who have an abortion, yet they receive only a fraction of public support. The time is now to protect and support the courageous independent providers who are no strangers to providing care during times of crises. Learn more at KeepOurClinics.org



Abortion Care Network
P.O. Box 3352
Minneapolis, MN 55403

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

During a pandemic and always, Abortion Care Network supports independent, community-based abortion care providers to ensure they are able to provide excellent care to the individuals, families, and communities they serve.

Check out the special fold out to see why indies are so vital!