The Newsletter of Abortion Care Network | Spring 2021

NOW IS THE TIME TO MAKE THE PROMISE OF ROE A REALITY

This year brought a new federal administration who has publicly committed to codifying Roe v. Wade. For independent clinics (indies), there is some hope for repair and a new future after four years of escalated attacks on human rights and healthcare access. However, even with the seachange of the Biden-Harris Administration, abortion access is under imminent threat.

In the courts, we face the threat of the most anti-abortion Supreme Court in a generation—one with Justices that have explicitly expressed attacks on Roe v. Wade, which affirmed the constitutional right to abortion. Indies are leading the majority of legal challenges to medically unnecessary abortion restrictions at every level in the court system—and any day now, one of these cases could be the next abortion case brought in front of this Supreme Court. By challenging abortion restrictions in the courts, independent clinics fight for all of us.

In the states, indies continue to fight anti-abortion politicians steadfastly committed to restricting abortion access. By the end of February, states had already introduced 384 anti-abortion measures and enacted eight abortion laws. In Arkansas, the Governor even signed a bill banning nearly all abortions (currently blocked by the courts). In the face of these attacks, indies are sometimes the only ones providing care in a state or the only ones providing care later in pregnancy. By standing-up against extremist politicians and providing care in the most politically hostile states, independent clinics are showing up for their communities.

Outside clinic doors, indies are facing increased levels of harassment and violence for providing abortion care. When we see direct attacks on democracy by armed white supremacists, we are reminded that white supremacy and anti-abortion extremism have a long, documented, and intertwined history. Abortion providers are already too familiar with the kinds of threats, violence, and rage we saw at the Capitol earlier this year. By continuing to provide care in spite of the harassment and violence, independent clinics are on the frontlines of defending our human rights.

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Now Is the Time to Make the Promise of Roe a Reality, continued

History shows us the anti-abortion extremists have made great strides in stripping away our human rights via the courts and in state legislatures as well as increased their harassment of providers and patients outside of clinics when the Presidential administration is in support of abortion access. This is the time we must be steadfast in our commitment to protecting abortion care and ensuring the well being of independent clinics so that we can create a world where the promise of Roe v. Wade is a reality for all who are in need of abortion care.

Abortion Provider Appreciation Day

Each year, Abortion Care Network celebrates Abortion Provider Appreciation Day on March 10th by uplifting independent abortion care providers and surrounding them with acts of gratitude, love, and celebration. This year, we gave providers their flowers! At Abortion Care Network, we are moved by the ways that abortion care providers tend to others and make it possible for people to grow and bloom. Independent abortion clinics are rooted in their communities—they are resilient and adaptable, and we are in awe of all the ways they weather storms in order to provide care.

Hundreds of organizations and thousands of individuals joined us by sharing ACN’s ‘Celebrate Abortion Provider’ art, hosting (virtual) postcard parties, sending love notes directly to clinics, working to pass proclamations and other policies in their own communities, flooding social media platforms with love and appreciation, and donating to Keep Our Clinics to directly support independent abortion clinics.

We love setting aside a day to unapologetically celebrate independent abortion care providers—but they work hard and change lives all year long. These courageous, compassionate providers refuse to back down in the face of restrictions, harassment, and political interference—but they need your support to keep their doors open.

You can celebrate abortion providers all year long by donating to independent clinics at www.KeepOurClinics.org. All proceeds go to independent clinics in ACN’s network.

It’s impossible to express all of the gratitude and appreciation we have for independent abortion care providers in just one day or even one week, so we hope you will continue to get to know, love, and support the indie clinics in your community, state, and across the country.
One year into the creation of the Keep Our Clinics program, we are both humbled by requests and proud of our member clinics and all that they do to maintain access to dignified and compassionate abortion care.

Here’s a glimpse of where the $250,000 raised to date has gone to keep abortion accessible!

Providing Care During COVID

“The COVID-19 pandemic has created additional barriers for patients seeking care on top of the constant restrictions already posed on reproductive healthcare. Washington was one of the first states hit by the pandemic, and we had to adapt quickly to meet the needs of our patients. We were able to respond with timely implementation of telemedicine services to increase access to safe abortion and it’s allowed us to continue to offer quality care to all people seeking our services.”

Mona Walia, Owner and Director
All Women’s Health, Washington

“During the COVID 19 pandemic, our patients and staff need us to innovate to continue to provide care as safely as possible. In my state of Arizona, however, telehealth for abortion is banned and ultrasound and laboratory testing are required for abortion care. These targeted regulations aimed at abortion providers make it nearly impossible for us to innovate during these difficult times.”

Dr. Deshawn Taylor
Owner and Medical Director
Desert Star Family Planning, Arizona

“As a nurse, the biggest impact of COVID-19 on abortion care is safety protocols. Abortion clinics provided exceptionally safe care before the pandemic, but now we have adjusted every aspect of patient care to ensure safe COVID practices. It has really changed the experience staff and patients have with each other. We are used to holding hands, wiping tears, giving hugs, and sharing laughter. We do miss being able to provide that type of intimate care and support.”

Ashia George, RN
Scotsdale Women’s Center, Michigan
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.

“Funding from Keep Our Clinics has made us realize that just because we’re independent clinics, we’re not alone. There are folks out there who care about us, and we don’t have to be a part of some huge organization to be a part of something really big and really meaningful.”

- Tonya Irick, Family Planning Associates

Support independent abortion providers today at KeepOurClinics.org