



Albuquerque Voters Defeat Dangerous Attack on Later Abortion Care

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Contact: Sara Alcid,
salcid@rhttp.org/ 202-530-4401

Statement by Jessica Arons, President & CEO of the Reproductive Health Technologies Project on the defeat of a local ballot initiative that would have banned abortion care after 20 weeks.

“We are thankful that yesterday, voters in Albuquerque, New Mexico rejected an attempt to limit abortion care after 20 weeks. While we recognize that abortion later in pregnancy may make some people uncomfortable, one thing on which we can all agree is that our laws should support women’s personal decision making and protect their health and safety. This 20-week abortion ban would have violated those basic principles in several ways.

“Unfortunately, not every pregnancy ends the way a family hopes it will. Some end in miscarriage; sometimes a woman develops serious health complications; and sometimes she finds out there’s something very wrong with the pregnancy.

“There are also women who have other equally legitimate reasons for ending a pregnancy but who are forced to delay accessing abortion care because of difficulties such as financial barriers, including restrictions that withhold insurance coverage for abortion. We should be working to eliminate barriers to abortion services, not erecting more barriers to care. It is not our place to take away a woman’s ability to make her own decision by pushing restrictions that make abortion harder to get or more costly.

“This initiative was part and parcel of a larger conservative strategy to deny women later abortion care not only in Albuquerque, NM, but across the entire southwest corridor and indeed throughout the United States. While abortion after 20 weeks represents a small fraction of the procedures that occur in this country, only a handful of clinics offer abortion services to the women who need to end a pregnancy later in gestation. Thus, had this measure passed, it would have had ripple effects far beyond the city limits of Albuquerque alone.

“When a woman needs to end her pregnancy, it is vitally important that she have access to safe medical care, not roadblocks to that care. We applaud the voters who stood up to this dangerous attack on women’s health care. We also thank our many partners who worked so hard on the ground to achieve this victory for women’s health.”

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