



## **Supreme Court Hears Arguments on Most Significant Abortion Case in 10 Years, Has Opportunity to Reaffirm Right to Safe, Legal Abortion**

(Washington, D.C.) – This morning the United States Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in *Whole Woman’s Health v Hellerstedt*. The case takes on the latest tactic by extremist abortion opponents of passing sham laws that purport to protect women’s health but in reality would eliminate access to safe, legal abortion care.

The legislation being considered in this case, Texas’ H.B.2, has singled out abortion providers, creating burdensome and unnecessary standards that no other healthcare professionals are forced to meet. The law has already led to the closure of approximately half the clinics in the state. If it is upheld, only ten clinics will remain, down from more than 40, centered in just 4 metro areas. Such restrictions fall the hardest on low-income women, women of color, immigrant women, rural women, and young women.

Indeed, recent research found that Latinas near the US-Mexico border and women who report having had problems accessing reproductive health care are significantly more likely to know someone who has attempted to end their pregnancies on their own. These are the same women who are most negatively impacted by the closure of clinics in Texas.

**“When abortion is stigmatized, unaffordable, criminalized, or regulated out of existence, as it is in Texas, a woman will do what she thinks is best for her circumstances to end a pregnancy. Some will find safe methods, but some may resort to methods that are dangerous or life threatening,”** said RHTP President and CEO Jessica Arons.

**“While the existence of abortion pills means a woman can safely end a pregnancy without medical supervision, it is an outrage for any woman to be denied access to clinical care when that is what she desires. The Supreme Court must stop anti-abortion politicians from pushing their dishonest and harmful political agenda.”**

*Founded in 1982, the mission of the Reproductive Health Technologies Project is to advance the ability of every woman of any age to achieve full reproductive freedom with access to the safest, most effective, appropriate and acceptable technologies for ensuring her own health and controlling her fertility. To fulfill this mission, we seek to build consensus in support of an education, research and advocacy agenda for reproductive health and reproductive freedom. We seek consensus through a process of dialogue among diverse communities about technological developments and their global implications.*

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