

Let Doctors Provide Reproductive Health Care Act

Senators Murray, Padilla, Luján, and Rosen

The effort to stop women from accessing abortions and other reproductive health services often targets health care providers trying to provide patients with high-quality medical care. State laws like Texas' SB8 target anyone who performs an abortion and allow for vigilantes to bring lawsuits against providers. In the wake of the Supreme Court's *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision overturning *Roe v. Wade* and allowing states to restrict abortion, anti-abortion advocates have stepped up their attacks on providers. States and advocates have already drafted legislation that would make it a crime to perform an abortion on a state resident even in another state where abortion is legal.

Eliminating access to reproductive care is catastrophic for so many women across the country in states with restrictive abortion laws. But those abortion restrictions cannot be allowed to reach beyond their state borders and bind doctors in other states.

The *Let Doctors Practice Act* aims to ensure that providers in states where abortion remains legal are protected from any efforts to restrict their practice or create uncertainty about their legal liability. Specifically, the bill would:

- Protect health care providers in states where abortion is legal from being subject to laws that try to prevent them from providing reproductive health care services or make them liable for providing those services to patients from any other state. These protections could be enforced by a federal lawsuit from the Department of Justice, a patient, or a provider, ensuring a future Department of Justice could not turn a blind eye to state laws that violate these protections.
- Prohibit any Federal funds from being used to pursue legal cases against individuals who access legal reproductive health care services or against health care providers in states where abortion is legal.
- Create a new grant program at the Department of Justice to fund legal assistance or legal education for reproductive health care service providers.
- Create a new grant program at the Department of Health and Human Services to support reproductive health care service providers in obtaining physical, cyber, or data privacy security upgrades necessary to protect their practice and patients.
- Protect reproductive health care providers from being denied professional liability insurance coverage because of legal services offered to patients.