

Reproductive Rights under 365 Days of Trump

We're now a year into Donald Trump's presidency, and the past 365 days have been tough, especially for defenders of women's rights and reproductive freedoms. During his first year, Donald Trump doubled down on his campaign promises to hinder reproductive rights through policy, executive orders, appointments, and resolutions. And just today, on the eve of the 45th anniversary of landmark Supreme Court Case *Roe v. Wade*, Trump became the first president to address the annual "March for Life," making it his latest attack on a woman's right to choose.

While Trump's first year in office underscored the myriad of challenges women continue to face, women across the nation responded in full force. And tomorrow, the [Center for Reproductive Rights](#) will join women around the nation as we commemorate the Women's March and mark 365 days of a Donald Trump presidency – with a man who has been openly hostile to women as a private man, candidate, and as President of the United States.

Remembering key moments in the fight for reproductive rights and equality is integral to road mapping future successes. Below is a recap of key moments for women and reproductive rights of the last 365 days.

Federal Actions

In one of his first acts as president, Donald Trump reinstated the [Global Gag Rule](#), a destructive policy that restricts access to safe abortion services for women worldwide.

- The administration went further to [expand the global gag rule](#), dictating that overseas groups receiving U.S. global health funds may not use this money or other funds to provide safe and legal abortion services, or even provide information that refers to safe abortion as a "method of family planning," at the risk of women's health and lives.
- **"In some places, they won't be able to [provide services at all](#). They won't be able to stay open.** And that will have a knock-on effect on other services: on access to contraception, and on HIV treatment, and the quality of maternal health care that women can access," said Moreen Majwa, advocacy adviser for Africa at the Center for Reproductive Rights.

[President Trump named anti-choice advocates](#) to key posts at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

- **"President Trump is sending a clear message with this appointment as he wraps up his first 100 days in office: this administration is willing to sacrifice women's dignity and health to advance an extremist political agenda."**

- After making promises on the campaign trail to only appoint a Supreme Court justice [who would overturn *Roe v. Wade*](#), Trump named Judge Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court.
- [Said Nancy Northup, President and CEO of the Center for Reproductive Rights](#), **“Our Constitution guarantees a woman’s right to safe, legal abortion. Any effort to gut those protections would harm the rights and health of women for generations to come.”**

With Donald Trump in office, the House of Representatives, as one of their first directives in the new Congress, responded by passing in January H.R. 7 (The No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act of 2017), a measure that would have denied insurance coverage of abortion care for nearly all women, including the millions who rely on federal insurance plans and state marketplaces. This move to drastically expand discriminatory abortion coverage bans into the private insurance marketplace charted the course for the rest of the year.

- **“It’s particularly shameful that politicians in Congress are voting to restrict a woman’s ability to get basic health care services just three days after millions of women, men, and families mobilized and marched for their rights,”** [said Nancy Northup, president and CEO of the Center for Reproductive Rights](#).

Congress repeatedly attempted to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which would have been devastating for women’s health care.

- **“Trump’s plan is dangerous for women’s health and our ability to make decisions about our futures and our families.** From gutting maternity coverage to blocking women from getting health care at Planned Parenthood to eliminating guaranteed coverage for those with pre-existing conditions, the measure passed today will drive health care out of reach for millions,” [said President and CEO of the Center for Reproductive Rights Nancy Northup](#).
- The Senate then tried to take a up a similar bill commonly referred to as “Skinny Repeal,” which too would have been [disastrous for women](#). The wildly unpopular bill [failed](#).

In October, the Trump administration issued interim final rules designed that could cut off access to birth control for countless women. The Center for Reproductive Rights and allies delivered [more than half a million comments from across the country opposing the rules](#).

- The rules, which were issued by the Departments of Health and Human Services, Labor, and the Treasury—create a broad exemption that allow employers and universities claiming a religious or moral objection to deny their employees and students coverage for contraception.
- The rules, [which a Pennsylvania judge recently temporarily blocked from going into effect](#), will effectively deny women coverage based on the personal objections of their employers, universities, or insurers. And just today, [a judge in California temporarily blocked](#) the Trump administration rule allowing employers to deny birth control coverage on moral or religious grounds.
- [Said Nancy Northup President and CEO of the Center for Reproductive Rights](#), **“The Trump administration continues to display a startling disregard for the reality**

of women's health and lives. An employer or university can't be allowed to use religious or moral beliefs to prevent a woman from planning her future and her family."

Shortly after attempts to repeal health care failed, the House took up an unconstitutional nationwide ban on abortion at 20 weeks, prohibiting safe and legal abortion without regard for the health of the woman.

- The ban not only violates longstanding Supreme Court precedent established in *Roe v. Wade*, and reaffirmed just last year in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*, but it contains only the narrowest exceptions for survivors of rape or incest and prohibits doctors from providing care at the risk of federal criminal penalties (including five years in prison).
- Women spoke out and shared their stories of having an abortion after 20 weeks with [TIME Motto](#) and [Women's Health](#), urging Congress to reject the bill.

Congress closed the year by passing a tax bill that threatens the health and economic wellbeing of women and families across the nation.

- The tax overhaul bill repeals the ACA individual mandate, which the [Congressional Budget Office estimates](#) would **rip coverage away from 13 million Americans** and raise premiums by double digits. The bill, which does not pay for itself, will imperil vital programs like Medicare, Medicaid and other programs Americans rely on.
- "The repeal of the individual mandate, a central tenet of the ACA, threatens to unravel the program and cause nearly 13 million Americans to lose their coverage. **This bill will have dangerous implications for years to come, and the Center for Reproductive Rights will fight tooth and nail to preserve programs critical for women's health,**" said [Nancy Northup](#) at the Center for Reproductive rights.

In Texas, a fight to allow an undocumented teenager who was being held by the Office of Refugee Resettlement from obtaining [an abortion](#).

- The Trump administration sought to block the teen from accessing abortion care, resulting in a weeks-long battle to get Jane Doe the care she requested.
- **"This is an abuse of power — for the agency to be using its authority in this way."** said [Susan Inman](#), senior federal policy counsel at the Center for Reproductive Rights, of the case.
- The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit ruled that the Trump administration must allow the teen to receive an [abortion "promptly and without delay](#).
- And now, there are [four additional teens](#) with similar legal status being denied their right to obtain an abortion.

State Actions

On the local level, we saw states adopt a parallel approach to the national landscape, with new and more creative tactics meant to sneak around the Constitution and the strong ruling won in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*. [Detailed in the Center for Reproductive Rights' recently released State of the States](#), anti-abortion politicians are advancing restrictions that systematically ban abortion, method by method, based on junk science. The goal is the same: ending abortion access.

Measures prescribing the way medical facilities handle tissue after an abortion have also become a trend after the Court decided *Whole Women's Health*. In 2017, 9 bills requiring what amount to fetal funerals were introduced. Arkansas, Indiana and Texas passed such laws requiring a burial or cremation in 2017.

Several states introduced or passed legislation banning one of the safest and most common methods of ending a pregnancy after approximately 15 weeks. Every court to consider such a ban has blocked it, including most recently in a challenge brought by the Center by Reproductive Rights and Planned Parenthood [in Texas](#).

- On November 22, a federal district court struck down Texas' ban on the safest, most common method of abortion after 15 weeks. Such laws are part of a coordinated national strategy by anti-abortion politicians.
- The Center for Reproductive Rights and Planned Parenthood challenged the [SB8](#) provision on behalf of Whole Woman's Health, Planned Parenthood, and other reproductive health care providers in the state.
- Said [Nancy Northup president and CEO of the Center for Reproductive Rights](#) on the win, **"The court's decision once again makes clear that politicians cannot force their way into private medical decisions that should stay between patients and physicians."**

On the one-year anniversary of the *Whole Woman's Health* decision, the Center for Reproductive Rights filed [a new lawsuit against the state of Louisiana's clinic licensing law](#) that has forced most of the state's abortion clinics to close.

- The law challenged contains more than 1,000 medically unnecessary requirements that apply exclusively to clinics that provide abortion. Since the law took effect in 2001, the number of abortion clinics in Louisiana has fallen from 11 to three.
- [In an op-ed for USA Today](#), Nancy Northup writes, **"Louisiana is trying to do what its next door neighbor failed to do. Despite last year's Supreme Court decision, Louisiana has continued to enforce more than 1,100 similarly dangerous and unconstitutional regulations and statutes aimed at shutting down clinics, and is spending millions of taxpayer dollars to defend them."**

Looking forward

Buoyed by meaningful wins during a challenging year, advocates are now not only playing defense but also advancing bold, inclusive policies that expand access to essential reproductive care in states across the country.

- A [poll](#) released by the Center for Reproductive Rights found that no matter their personal beliefs, most Americans believe abortion should be legal and would support Congress passing a new federal law to protect women's access to care.
- **“Americans view their access to reproductive health care as an essential right, and not a political issue,”** said Nancy Northup, president and CEO of the Center for Reproductive Rights.
- The [Women's Health Protection Act](#) was reintroduced by Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA) and Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) with strong co-sponsorship in both chambers.