

June 1, 2016

**An Open Letter of Solidarity with the Honorable Wendy Davis of Texas, Teresa Fedor of Ohio, Lucy Flores of Nevada, and Judy Nicastro of Washington State, by 137 State Legislators Representing Legislative Districts in 32 States:**

Four of our colleagues—the Honorable Wendy Davis of Texas, Teresa Fedor of Ohio, Lucy Flores of Nevada, and Judy Nicastro of Washington State—filed a friend-of-the-court brief on January 4, 2016, with the U.S. Supreme Court in support of a lawsuit challenging provisions of Texas HB2, a sweeping law imposing numerous restrictions on access to abortion. In their brief, the current and former legislators bravely share their perspectives as women who made the decision to have an abortion. The brief is one of 45 friend-of-the-court briefs filed in the case, *Whole Woman’s Health v. Hellerstedt*, that urge the Court to once again affirm longstanding precedent and uphold a woman’s constitutional right to access safe and legal abortion services.

Texas HB2 was designed to shut down abortion clinics and has already forced more than half of Texas’ clinics to close their doors. If the challenged provisions are upheld, it will leave 10 or fewer abortion clinics open in Texas, the second-most populous state in the nation, and will gravely harm women in Texas. The Supreme Court heard arguments in the case on March 2.

We are state legislators who know that the decision in *Whole Woman’s Health v. Hellerstedt* will have an impact well beyond Texas’ borders. Many states have enacted similar clinic shutdown laws that require abortion providers to have local hospital admitting privileges or require first-trimester abortion clinics to meet hospital-like building standards. While federal and state courts alike have blocked these requirements in several states, in others they remain in effect, threatening continued access to safe, legal abortion care. And of course, the crisis in access to abortion care encompasses far more than these specific restrictions. The reality is that many more states are facing—or will face—additional restrictions intended to force quality, safe abortion providers to stop providing needed care. The Supreme Court’s decision in *Whole Woman’s Health v. Hellerstedt* may shape the landscape of abortion access in the United States for generations to come.

We commend and respect these four courageous lawmakers for their willingness to share with the Supreme Court their personal stories about their abortion experiences. Their brief details some of the backlash they experienced for making their stories public. We stand with them—in solidarity and support—in their call to the Supreme Court that the constitutional right to an abortion should not be eroded by legislators using deceitful methods and theories to chip away at *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* under false pretenses. The health and well-being of women depend on abortion remaining legal, safe, and accessible.

In solidarity,

## **Alabama**

State Representative Merika Coleman

## **Arizona**

State Senate Minority Whip Rebecca Rios

State Senator Katie Hobbs

State Representative Ken Clark

State Representative Rosanna Gabaldón

State Representative Juan Mendez

State Representative Celeste Plumlee

## **Arkansas**

State Representative Vivian Flowers

## **Colorado**

State Senator Irene Aguilar

State Senator Matthew Jones

State Senator Linda Newell

State Senator Pat Steadman

Speaker of the House Dickey Lee Hullinghorst

State Representative Jessie Danielson

State Representative Diane Mitsch Bush

State Representative Dominick Moreno

State Representative Su Ryden

State Representative David L. Young

## **Connecticut**

State Representative Matthew Lesser

State Representative Kevin Ryan

## **Hawaii**

State Senator Rosalyn Baker

State Representative Della Belatti

State Representative Joy Buenaventura

State Representative Roy Takumi

## **Idaho**

State Senator Cherie Buckner-Webb

## **Iowa**

State Representative Marti Anderson

State Representative Dan Kelly

### **Kentucky**

State Representative Mary Lou Marzian

### **Maine**

State Senator Dave Miramant

State Representative Christine Burstein

State Representative Richard Farnsworth

### **Maryland**

State Senator Richard Madaleno, Jr.

### **Massachusetts**

State Senator Barbara L'Italien

### **Michigan**

State Representative Pam Faris

State Representative Christine Greig

State Representative Sarah Roberts

### **Minnesota**

Senate President Sandra Pappas

House Deputy Minority Leader Melissa Hortman

State Representative Frank Hornstein

State Representative Tina Liebling

State Representative Joe Mullery

### **Missouri**

State Representative Tracy McCreery

State Representative Stacey Newman

### **Montana**

State Senator Robyn Driscoll

State Representative Janet Ellis

### **New Hampshire**

State Representative Susan Almy

State Representative Cynthia Chase

State Representative Christy Dolat Bartlett

State Representative Martha Hennessey

State Representative Marcia Moody

State Representative Marjorie Porter

State Representative Cindy Rosenwald

### **New Jersey**

State Assemblymember Valerie Vainieri Huttle

### **New Mexico**

State Senator Mimi Stewart

State Representative Deborah Armstrong

### **New York**

Senate Deputy Democratic Conference Leader Michael N. Gianaris

State Senator Tony Avella

State Senator Brad Hoylman

State Senator Liz Krueger

State Senator Daniel Squadron

Assembly Committee on Health Chairman Richard Gottfried

Assemblymember Didi Barrett

Assemblymember Kevin A. Cahill

Assemblymember Patricia Fahy

Assemblymember Sandy Galef

Assemblymember Deborah J. Glick

Assemblymember Ellen C. Jaffee

Assemblymember Barbara Lifton

Assemblymember Amy R. Paulin

Assemblymember N. Nick Perry

Assemblymember Dan Quart

Assemblymember Michelle Schimel

Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon

Assemblymember Aravella Simotas

Assemblymember Phillip G. Steck

### **North Carolina**

State Senator Angela Bryant

State Senator Terry Van Duyn

State Representative Susan Fisher

State Representative Rosa Gill

State Representative Pricey Harrison

State Representative Graig Meyer

State Representative Bobbie Richardson

### **North Dakota**

State Representative Pamela Anderson

State Representative Joshua A. Boschee

State Representative Gail Mooney

State Representative Kylie Oversen

## **Ohio**

House Minority Whip Nickie Antonio  
State Representative Stephanie Howse  
State Representative Greta Johnson  
State Representative Christie Kuhns  
State Representative Michele Lepore-Hagan  
State Representative Emilia Strong Sykes

## **Pennsylvania**

State Representative Mary Jo Daley  
State Representative Michael Schlossberg

## **Rhode Island**

State Representative Edith H. Ajello

## **Texas**

State Senator Rodney Ellis  
State Senator Sylvia R. Garcia  
State Senator Jose Rodriguez  
State Senator Kirk Watson  
State Senator John Whitmire  
State Representative Jessica Farrar  
State Representative Mary E. Gonzalez  
State Representative Ina M. Minjarez

## **Utah**

State Representative Patrice Arent  
State Representative Brian King

## **Vermont**

State Representative Robin Chesnut-Tangerman  
State Representative Joanna Cole  
State Representative Jill Krowinski

## **Virginia**

State Delegate Kaye Kory

## **Washington**

State Senator Karen Keiser  
State Representative Joe Fitzgibbon

## **West Virginia**

State Delegate Stephen Skinner

## **Wisconsin**

Senate Democratic Leader Jennifer Shilling

State Senator Janet Bewley

State Senator Jon Erpenbach

State Senator Chris Larson

State Senator Mark Miller

State Senator Janis Ringhand

State Senator Fred A. Risser

State Senator Bob Wirch

Assemblymember Mandela Barnes

Assemblymember Jill Billings

Assemblymember David F. Bowen

Assemblymember Jonathan Brostoff

Assemblymember David Considine

Assemblymember Dianne Hesselbein

Assemblymember Gordon Hintz

Assemblymember LaTonya Johnson

Assemblymember Tod Ohnstad

Assemblymember SONDY POPE

Assemblymember Daniel Riemer

Assemblymember Melissa Sargent

Assemblymember Christine Sinicki

Assemblymember Lisa Subeck

Assemblymember Chris Taylor

Assemblymember Dana Wachs

Assemblymember JoCasta Zamarripa