

Focus on the Family Responds to SCOTUS' Hellerstedt Decision

"The Supreme Court rejected... commonsense regulations prompted by ghastly history of Kermit Gosnell's abortion activities. Making all surgery as safe as possible for women is common sense and pro-woman."

Colorado Springs, Colo. – Bruce Hausknecht, judicial analyst for Focus on the Family, released the following statement today in response to the Supreme Court's decision in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*.

"We are disappointed today to hear that the U.S. Supreme Court has rejected the commonsense regulations passed by the Texas legislature to protect the health and safety of women undergoing abortions.

"As a Christian, pro-life organization, we oppose abortion as a general principle. Until the day comes when this horrific practice that has already taken the lives of over 53 million Americans is ended, however, we will continue to advocate for and support state laws that protect the other victim of abortion: the mother.

"The Texas law at issue requires abortion facilities to meet the same health and medical standards as other ambulatory surgical centers that perform outpatient procedures, as well as requiring abortionists to maintain admitting privileges at a nearby hospital, in case an abortion procedure results in an emergency or later follow-up trip to the hospital.

"As Texas lawmakers considered this law, they heard ample evidence from medical experts on the need for such regulations. It is discouraging that the Supreme Court chose to second-guess the legislature's fact-finding. States have a duty to protect the health and safety of the public.

"Further, the Texas law was prompted by the ghastly history of Kermit Gosnell's abortion activities in Philadelphia, in which unsanitary conditions and poor medical practices resulted in the deaths of a woman and several babies born alive during an abortion procedure, for which Gosnell and others were convicted in 2013. Pennsylvania and other states have already implemented laws similar to the Texas law. In light of what we have come to know about the abortion industry's practices and the dangers associated with the procedure itself, reasonable people should not question the need for such laws.

"Making all surgery as safe as possible for women is common sense and pro-woman. This ruling is an affront to common sense and potentially places women in danger."

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About Focus on the Family

Focus on the Family, which reaches about 238 million people in 130 countries, is a global faith-based ministry that helps families thrive. We provide help and resources for strengthening believers in their faith and sharing the gospel; building resilient marriages



Statement

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