Roe v. Wade recognized the constitutional right to abortion. But for many people in the United States, accessing abortion is difficult and, in some places, nearly impossible. We need a federal law to assure that the right to access abortion first recognized in Roe v. Wade is a reality in every state. The Women’s Health Protection Act is that law.

There is a coordinated, nationwide strategy to eliminate abortion access

In 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court reaffirmed the right to access abortion care without undue burden. Yet anti-abortion lawmakers have escalated their attacks, pushing through over 170 harmful laws since then, and nearly 450 since 2011.

These laws:

• Delay and obstruct access.
• Lower the quality of care that is delivered.
• Are designed to shame those seeking abortion.
• Require providers to perform medically unnecessary procedures and tell patients factually incorrect information.
• Increase costs and risks of reproductive health care services.
• Create gross inequities in access to health care.

These restrictions do nothing to protect health or safety of patients and can have long-lasting socioeconomic consequences for people and their families. The harms these barriers create are deeply unequal, falling most heavily on underserved people and communities, including people living in poverty, people of color, young people, LGBTQ people, and people living in rural or medically underserved areas.

How does the Women’s Health Protection Act work?

The Women’s Health Protection Act (WHPA) creates a nationwide safeguard against bans and medically unnecessary restrictions that single out abortion care, and protects the long-held constitutional right to access abortion. WHPA works by establishing a statutory right for health care providers to provide, and for their patients to receive, abortion care free from medically unnecessary limitations and bans.

Why we need the Women’s Health Protection Act

The Women’s Health Protection Act would protect against unnecessary burdens and bans on reproductive health care, and allow us all to make vital decisions about our own health, lives, and futures, no matter what state we live in.