



Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, Inc.

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Act 37 Enjoined: Safe and Legal Abortion Still Accessible in the Four Remaining Wisconsin Facilities for Now

MADISON, WI-This evening, a federal judge in the Western District of Wisconsin granted a temporary restraining order to stop the enforcement of Wisconsin Act 37 (SB 206) which significantly takes away a woman's ability to access safe and legal abortion services in Wisconsin. Act 37 was opposed by the medical community because it jeopardizes women's health and takes away a physician's ability to practice medicine that is in the best interest of the patient. Act 37 was supported by Governor Walker and the Republican majorities in the state Legislature to end safe and legal abortion access in Wisconsin through burdensome, unnecessary requirements on doctors providing abortion as well as to coerce and shame women seeking abortion. Act 37 would end the availability of abortion services at Planned Parenthood in Appleton and Affiliated Medical Services in Milwaukee and would significantly reduce the availability of abortion services in the two remaining Planned Parenthood facilities in Milwaukee and Madison because of new admitting privileges required for doctors performing abortion. This new mandate is not required for any other medical procedure. In an effort to protect women's continued access to safe and legal abortion, Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin sought a temporary restraining order in Federal Court to stop the enforcement of Wis. Act. 37.

"Planned Parenthood is in court to stand up for our patients and to restore a woman's ability to make her own personal, complex medical decisions," said Teri Huyck, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin. "We are asking the court to block this law, which significantly restricts a woman's access to safe and legal abortion services in Wisconsin. Abortion is a deeply personal and often complex decision, but ultimately a decision that a woman should make — politics should not interfere."

While the law is enjoined, Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin and Affiliated Medical Services will be able to maintain abortion services for women in Wisconsin at the four facilities offering abortion in Madison, Milwaukee and Appleton while the parties make our arguments to the court on the constitutionality of this law.

"This ruling is a step in the right direction for the women of Wisconsin who can now continue to make their own personal, private health care decisions," continued Huyck. "We are confident that the Court will ultimately recognize if ACT 37 is not blocked, it would unconstitutionally restrict the ability of Wisconsin women, including victims of rape and incest and women who are in need of an abortion to preserve their health, to access safe and legal abortions."

"Wis. Act. 37 is political interference at its absolute worst," continued Teri Huyck. "Ultimately, decisions about whether to choose adoption, end a pregnancy, or raise a child must be left to a woman, her family, and her faith, with the counsel of her doctor or health care provider."

"For 78 years, Planned Parenthood health centers in Wisconsin have provided high quality, nonjudgmental health care to women. We look forward to resolving this case so we can provide our patients with safe and legal health care services they need and deserve well into the future."

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Background on SB 206 WI Act 37:

Wis. Act 37 jeopardizes women's health by forcing PPWI to close the Appleton health center, and severely limiting abortion services available at the other 2 abortion facilities in Milwaukee and Madison. When safe and legal abortion is inaccessible, maternal health suffers and women die.

[Wis. Act was opposed by the medical community because it compromises women's health care.](#) The bill's restrictions are created by politicians to significantly reduce access to safe and legal abortion and to shame and coerce women seeking abortion.

This act creates unnecessary hospital admitting privilege requirements for physicians who perform abortions as a tactic to end abortion access. Requiring doctors who provide abortions to have staff privileges at a nearby hospital won't make women safer and, in fact, will jeopardize their health by depriving women in Wisconsin access to safe, high-quality health care.

As a high-quality, nonprofit health care provider that holds patient health and safety as its top priority, Planned Parenthood is already prepared to assure patient safety in the rare event of complications. Opponents of abortion have been pushing for hospital staff privileges requirements that apply only to physicians who provide safe and legal abortion as part of a national strategy to limit a woman's access to abortion. The only remaining health center providing abortions in Mississippi was on the verge of closing because of a similar requirement after a law was passed there in 2012. The Mississippi law was recently enjoined by a federal district court because it would have shut down the state's only provider of safe and legal abortions. Earlier this year, North Dakota enacted a staff privileges requirement, which could force that state's only provider of safe and legal abortions to close, as well. In addition, abortion providers in Alabama recently filed a suit to stop the enforcement of an admitting privileges requirement in that state, which has been temporarily restrained by a federal court.

Legal abortion is extremely safe. In fact, it is one of the safest medical procedures in the United States. Abortion complications are rare, but those that do occur are usually handled in the health center that provided the abortion. In the exceedingly rare event that a complication after an abortion requires hospital-based care, a woman would be provided emergency care at a hospital, and staff privileges at that hospital have no impact on a woman's ability to receive high quality, timely care.

Wis. Act 37 is just one piece of a concerted effort underway to limit women's access to everything from birth control and abortion. These bills are being rushed through the legislative process at the urging of special interest groups who are opposed to women's access to birth control and abortion.

Wisconsin already has more than a dozen laws restricting abortion including some of the strictest regulations in the nation. Current law already requires that all women deciding on abortion be offered an ultrasound. Under Wisconsin's current abortion restrictions, women would have to take these long trips twice and more than 24 hours apart - proving to be logistically challenging, costly and adding to the risk that a woman will have delayed medical care.