

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. CON. RES. 6

Expressing support for the recognition of March 10, 2023, as “Abortion Provider Appreciation Day”.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 9, 2023

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing support for the recognition of March 10, 2023, as “Abortion Provider Appreciation Day”.

Whereas March 10 has been established as a day to show appreciation for the essential, high-quality care that abortion providers and clinic staff provide to their communities and those traveling to their communities, and to celebrate their courage, compassion, and dedication to their work;

Whereas March 10 was established in honor of Dr. David Gunn, who was killed on March 10, 1993, outside his abortion clinic in Pensacola, Florida, by a White supremacist and antiabortion extremist in the first known instance of the murder of an abortion provider;

Whereas, on June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court of the United States overturned *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, 597 U.S. \_\_\_\_\_ (2022) (referred to in this preamble as “the Dobbs decision”), reversing decades of legal precedent affirming the right to an abortion and unleashing devastation on an already precarious abortion access landscape;

Whereas, following the Dobbs decision, States across the country moved to further restrict access to abortion care, with not fewer than 17 States either severely restricting access to abortion care or banning abortion entirely;

Whereas, because of State abortion bans, scores of clinics in already underserved areas were forced to close and more patients were forced to travel to other States, increasing wait times at clinics, straining already thin resources, and pushing people farther and farther away from their homes;

Whereas abortion providers and clinic staff play a critical role in a world where it has become increasingly difficult for individuals to be able to make essential and time-sensitive decisions about their bodies, lives, and futures;

Whereas abortion providers and clinic staff help to ensure that all individuals who can become pregnant can make their own decisions about their bodies and their pregnancies, and support the decisions of their patients by treating them with dignity, empathy, compassion, and respect, despite numerous challenges due to abortion bans and restrictions;

Whereas abortion providers and clinic staff play an essential role within the reproductive justice framework, which was

created by 12 Black women in 1994, who determined the necessity of adopting a human rights framework that demands every person has the human right to bodily autonomy, which includes the right to choose if, when, and how to have children, and the right to parent the children they have in safe and sustainable communities;

Whereas individuals seeking abortion care across the United States also rely on the work of abortion funds and practical support organizations to access abortion care for themselves and their families;

Whereas abortion funds and practical support organizations that rely on donations face increasing demand following the Dobbs decision as individuals are forced into the vicious cycle of having to travel longer distances, find childcare or lodging, and raise money to obtain an abortion and cover associated costs;

Whereas restrictions on accessing abortion care have far-reaching consequences in both deepening existing inequities caused by White supremacy, structural racism, and systemic discrimination in the maternal health care system and worsening health outcomes for pregnant individuals, individuals giving birth, and their families;

Whereas the effects of the Dobbs decision were immediate and disastrous, with abortion being entirely banned in 12 States as of March 2023, meaning that a total of 71,000,000 individuals, or more than 20 percent of the population of the United States, live in a State where abortion is illegal;

Whereas restricting and banning access to abortion care—

(1) creates and increases the out-of-pocket costs and logistical burdens that patients face to get care to a level

that is sometimes insurmountable, forcing patients to remain pregnant; and

(2) exposes the remaining abortion providers and clinic staff to increased levels of harassment and politically motivated restrictions;

Whereas the 2021 Violence and Disruption Report of the National Abortion Federation found an alarming escalation in incidents of obstruction, vandalism, and trespassing at abortion clinics, with abortion providers reporting an alarming rate of death threats and threats of harm, and documented 182 incidents in 2021;

Whereas Black, indigenous, and other providers and patients of color face heightened levels of threats, harassment, and violence as compared to their White counterparts;

Whereas the Dobbs decision has emboldened antiabortion individuals and groups to continue to harass providers and the patients they care for;

Whereas the Dobbs decision threatens the ability of abortion providers and the clinic staff who support them to serve their patients; and

Whereas in the face of multifaceted attacks on their work, abortion providers remain an essential and valued part of their communities, providing high-quality, compassionate, and necessary health care, and courageously delivering this care despite pressures, restrictions, political interference, and violent threats to their personal safety: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*  
2 *concurring)*, That Congress—

1           (1) recognizes Abortion Provider Appreciation  
2 Day to celebrate the courage, compassion, and high-  
3 quality care that abortion providers and clinic staff  
4 offer to patients and their families across the United  
5 States;

6           (2) lauds communities across the United States  
7 who are proud to be home to abortion providers and  
8 clinic staff;

9           (3) affirms the commitment of Congress to en-  
10 suring the safety of abortion providers, the ability of  
11 abortion providers to continue providing the essen-  
12 tial care their patients need, and the right of pa-  
13 tients to access abortion care no matter where they  
14 live, free from fear of violence, criminalization, or  
15 stigma;

16           (4) condemns the decision of the Supreme  
17 Court of the United States in *Dobbs v. Jackson*  
18 *Women’s Health Organization*, 597 U.S. \_\_\_\_\_  
19 (2022), which has had a devastating impact on abor-  
20 tion providers and the communities they care for,  
21 threatening the work and livelihoods of providers  
22 and clinic staff, and worsening the strain on pro-  
23 viders who work in States where abortion is still  
24 available; and

1           (5) declares a vision for a future where access  
2           to abortion is liberated from restrictions and bans  
3           universally, and affirms the commitment of Congress  
4           to working toward this goal in partnership with pro-  
5           viders, patients, advocates, and their communities.

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