

For immediate release: March 1, 2021

Contact:

Zack Gingrich-Gaylord
Communications Manager, Trust Women
316-425-3215
316-737-1300
Zackgg@itrustwomen.org

HB 1904 Targets Women and Their Doctors with Unnecessary Abortion Regulations

WICHITA, KS—The passage of HB 1904 by the Oklahoma House continues a historical pattern of deliberate targeting of abortion providers and the women they serve. The bill, which limits abortions after the first trimester to general hospitals, and restricts anyone who is not an OB/GYN from performing abortions, is not based on the medical profession’s widely accepted standard of care. This bill is intended to block abortion access from women who are trying to obtain these services.

“The bill passed by the Oklahoma State House would willfully penalize physicians who provide abortion care,” says Julie Burkhart, founder and CEO of Trust Women, “It is well known that abortion is one of the safest medical procedures.” Ms. Burkhart, with Trust Women, operates a clinic in Oklahoma City.

“The complication rate of abortion care is less than one-half of one percent in the U.S. Trust Women is a community health center that provides essential health care that has been proven, time and time again, to be safe for women,” say Ms. Burkhart.

“The intent of HB 1904 is to restrict access to reproductive health care,” says Ms. Burkhart. “The medical practice of abortion is already one of the most highly regulated areas of health care available. Much to anti-choice legislators’ chagrin, as providers, we strive to protect the health of our patients.”

HB 1904 restricts access to providers, making abortion care even more inaccessible. According to a 2020 report released by Abortion Care Network, independent clinics account for 62% of all U.S. clinics that provide abortions after the first trimester, as well as 81% that provide abortions after 22 weeks. The loss of independent clinics and private practice services would be dramatic and devastating for Oklahoma women who would continue to need this essential health care service, but who would find it increasingly insurmountable to access.

###

Julie A. Burkhart is founder and CEO of Trust Women, a reproductive health and rights organization that opens clinics in underserved areas so that all women will have access to reproductive health care. Trust Women envisions a day when all people have access to reproductive health care, no matter where they live or their ability to pay.

Ms. Burkhart worked for seven years with Dr. George Tiller as his spokesperson and lobbyist. She also built and directed his political action committee, ProKanDo. After Dr. Tiller’s murder in 2009, at the hands of an anti-choice extremist, Ms. Burkhart founded Trust Women. In 2013 Trust Women opened its flagship clinic in Wichita, returning abortion services to the people of South Central Kansas and beyond.

In 2016, Ms. Burkhart opened the second Trust Women clinic in Oklahoma City, expanding abortion access in the country's largest metropolitan area without an abortion provider.

Ms. Burkhart's work with Trust Women seeks to educate, engage and mobilize constituents in states hostile to abortion rights. When not opening clinics, she leads the fight for choice in legislatures and courtrooms, and has been at the frontlines of reproductive justice for three decades.