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Passage of HB1102 Criminalizes Doctors for Routine and Essential Medical Care

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK—Anti-choice politicians in the Oklahoma legislature continue their assault on women’s personal autonomy with legislation aimed at criminalizing doctors that provide abortion care, even in circumstances of certain harm to the woman. HB 1102 represents an increasingly overt sentiment of outright hostility towards women and families by the Oklahoma legislature.

“In their zeal for banning abortion, no matter the cost, certain legislators seem willing to accept women as collateral damage,” said Julie A. Burkhart, founder and CEO of Trust Women, a reproductive rights organization that operates clinics in Oklahoma City and Wichita, Kansas.

“This bill will create tangible damage to the lives of people forced to carry pregnancies to term who present with significant health risks, including mental health. It is simply unavoidable. As proponents have said, this bill is about nothing less than making abortion care in Oklahoma inaccessible,” said Ms. Burkhart.

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Trust Women is a health and reproductive rights organization that opens clinics in underserved areas to provide access to reproductive health care for all women. Founded in the wake of the assassination of Dr. George Tiller, Trust Women educates, engages and mobilizes constituents in states hostile to abortion rights.

Ms. Burkhart, founder and CEO of Trust Women, is a former advisor to Dr. Tiller and has led the fight for choice in legislatures, courtrooms and at the frontlines of reproductive justice for three decades.

In 2013 Trust Women opened its flagship clinic in Wichita, returning abortion services to the people of South Central Kansas and beyond, and in 2016 opened the second Trust Women clinic in Oklahoma City, expanding abortion access in the country’s largest metropolitan area without an abortion provider. For more information, visit: TrustWomen.org.