TRUST WOMEN
Together
Dear friends,

2020 has been a precedent-defying year. From the COVID-19 pandemic and social upheaval, to the policy chaos of the Trump administration and the slow stresses of quarantine, we’ve needed each other more than ever.

As much as it’s felt like the world has stopped, the need for compassionate reproductive health care has not been diminished. The story of Trust Women is one of resilience in the face of continued challenges, and the celebration of years of hard work for meaningful victories. This year marked the fourth anniversary of the opening of the Oklahoma City clinic, and the seventh year in Wichita. In that time, we’ve cared for thousands of women, demonstrating the ever-present need that exists for our services, regardless of who is in the White House.

When the pandemic gave anti-choice lawmakers across the country an opportunity to further restrict local access to abortion services, our Oklahoma City clinic was part of the collateral damage, while our Wichita clinic saw a 400% increase in patients traveling hundreds of miles for care. Throughout the upheaval caused by COVID-19, we have continued to advocate and lobby in state legislatures, litigate in the courts and communicate with the public on behalf of our patients, supporting their right to expanded and protected bodily autonomy.

As so often happens in difficult times, we see more clearly the bonds of togetherness that fortify us in our struggle for justice. Now more than ever, it’s time to Trust Women Together.

Julie A. Burkhart
Founder & CEO
Seven years in Wichita. Four years in Oklahoma City. A legacy of care and advocacy. From the first days of Trust Women in 2009 and the opening of our clinic doors, we’ve honored Dr. George Tiller’s legacy to perform abortions for women who want them—as a matter of principle. This is why we operate in states that are underserved and restrict access to reproductive health care.

Our work has never been easy. While a strong majority of Americans support legal abortion, anti-choice politicians have been relentless in their efforts to create undue hardship for women seeking abortion care. Time and time again, Trust Women has mobilized supporters to stand up against threats to our reproductive freedom, and each time they’ve come through: by comforting patients and assisting staff at our clinics, lobbying legislators for expanded access to abortion, getting out the vote to elect pro-choice leaders and litigating where necessary.
Each year, Trust Women clinics serve over 5,000 patients, primarily for abortion services, but also for family planning, general gynecological treatment and LGBTQIA care. Our patients come from every background, every demographic and sometimes from hundreds of miles away to receive the compassionate care they need.

There isn’t just one abortion story. Women come to us accompanied by their families, a friend or on their own. Their abortion can be a time for grieving or it can signal a new beginning. Whatever the reason behind a woman's choice to have an abortion, it's her choice and we honor that decision.

More than 5,000 patients served each year from every background and demographic

Trust Women is made up of nurses, doctors, patient care coordinators and administrative staff who are fearlessly determined to expand abortion access across the country. Even throughout the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which created an opportunity for anti-choice governors to close many clinics across the country, people are still in need of abortion care, family planning services, GYN care and LGBTQIA services.

When our Oklahoma City clinic was forced to temporarily close due to the categorization of abortion services as “non-essential” by the Oklahoma governor, our Wichita clinic saw an increase in patient visits of 400%. Many women traveled hundreds of miles to our clinic to receive important and essential medical care. Our doctors and clinic staff worked tirelessly and selflessly to ensure that each patient’s needs were met.
The presence of a clinic in a community is a signal that the community values the freedom and dignity of the people who live there.

Abortion care is family care. When women have access to reproductive health care, families and communities are stronger. 70% of people who come to us for abortions are already parents. When women are not held hostage by an unwanted pregnancy, they are fully able to determine for themselves how they will participate in their own life, leading to better health outcomes for women, their children and families. The freedom to choose is inextricably bound with the health and wellness of our communities.

“This was one of the hardest decisions I have ever made. But I know in the end it will be the best choice for me and my 3-year-old daughter. Knowing that I am not alone has made the choice easier.”

When new abortion restrictions make the news, when a bad court decision is announced or when elections have negative outcomes, people call on us for accurate information. Trust Women is on the ground, in the legislatures and in the news advocating for reproductive health and justice. We know that it's up to us to set the record straight about abortion, and to speak on behalf of our patients. Incorrect and untrue news are a bigger problem than ever, but we’re dedicated to using our expertise to tell the truth about abortion and change the tone of the conversation.

We never apologize for providing abortions, in fact, we lean into abortion, and women should never be ashamed for having them. Trust Women has been at the front lines of reproductive health and justice since our founding, and in the wake of myriad assaults on women’s fundamental rights to self-determination and medical choice, we’re fighting even harder.

Dr. Tiller believed that abortion is about a woman’s hopes and dreams: it’s a matter of survival for women. Our founder and CEO, Julie Burkhart, is a tireless advocate for women’s rights, and she continues to engage with the news media, speak at professional organizations, lobby in state legislatures and carry the banner for Trust Women in the courts.
The future of legal abortion in America is uncertain. Across fifty states, there are fifty different ways our right to abortion is restricted or endangered. The tenuous status of abortion rights at the federal level means that state-level protections are more important than ever. As one of only a handful of states with constitutional protections for abortion, Kansas has become an important operational center for access; making it a pivotal state for people in the center of the country.

Our mission remains unchanged: to provide quality, compassionate reproductive health services, expand access in underserved areas by opening clinics that provide abortion care and advance abortion rights so that all women can make their own decisions about their health care.

Our supporters across the country make this work possible. Your financial support, volunteering and advocacy have sustained Trust Women and the fight for abortion rights for over a decade. The coming years will be the biggest fight we’ve ever faced, but with your continued support, we’re confident we have what it takes to win.

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TrustWomen.org/Take-Action
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Learn more at trustwomen.org