FRIENDS,

The past year has been marked by unprecedented turmoil and hardship for millions of people across the country. A historic wave of abortion bans has removed abortion access from dozens of states, forcing thousands of people to leave their homes and travel hundreds of miles for basic, essential health care. But while states and courts have accelerated their rightward drift, we’ve also seen a growing movement of solidarity from our communities that support robust and meaningful access to abortion care. In the face of increasing hostility from those in power, our movement is responding with an unshakable voice to take reproductive justice beyond all limits.

Trust Women’s clinics in Oklahoma City and Wichita have been at the center of the story for years, and our role as abortion providers for the region has become even more critical over the past 12 months. As we write this letter, we are approaching the one-year anniversary of Texas’ Senate Bill 8, the bill that banned abortions after detection of cardiac activity, or around six weeks gestation. That law opened the floodgates to a wave of anti-abortion legislation that continues to wash over the country, as state legislatures become ever more emboldened by the apparent resilience of SB 8 against multiple legal challenges:

- In May, the state of Oklahoma banned all abortions beginning at fertilization, using a template directly provided by the authors of SB 8.

- In June, the Supreme Court, fully under the authoritarian control of an extreme conservative majority, overturned Roe v Wade and Casey v Planned Parenthood in their decision Dobbs v Jackson Women’s Health Center.

The landscape of abortion access changed immediately, with over a dozen states moving to enact trigger bans already on the books, and another dozen legislatures began efforts to ban abortion in their own states. In Kansas, voters bucked the trend and resoundingly rejected a constitutional amendment that would have left the door wide open for a future abortion ban. The galvanizing effect on the midterms remains to be seen.

Throughout the upheaval of the past year, Trust Women’s supporters have stayed the course, providing essential funding, volunteer hours and other forms of support for staff and patients. You’ve knocked on doors, phone banked and shared messages of support across all forms of media. You’ve remained resolute in your belief that abortion care should remain local, that every person deserves access to the health care they need without having to travel out of their own communities.

We couldn’t be more proud of our movement, especially during these tenuous months. In this post-Roe era, we stand in solidarity with our communities and comrades across our region and country who are demanding the return of full access to abortions: local, free and beyond all limits.

In solidarity,

REBECCA TONG
SCHAUNTA JAMES-BOYD
CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS
YEAR IN REVIEW

SEPTEMBER 1, 2021
Texas’ SB 8 goes into effect, banning abortion after six weeks

MAY 2, 2022
A draft opinion on Dobbs v Jackson Women’s Health Center is leaked from the Supreme Court

MAY 26, 2022
Oklahoma’s Governor Stitt signs HB 4327 into law, banning abortions at fertilization

JUNE 24, 2022
The Supreme Court releases an official ruling on Dobbs v Jackson, overturning Roe v Wade and Casey v Planned Parenthood

AUGUST 2, 2022
Kansans overwhelmingly reject a proposed constitutional amendment that would have removed the right to abortion care from the state constitution
The ultimate impact of the Supreme Court decision in Dobbs v Jackson Women’s Health Center will play out over the next few years, but its immediate effects were significant and devastating for millions of Americans. Over the course of the few weeks following the release of the final decision, over a dozen states banned abortions completely, with at least another dozen expected to follow suit.
Beginning in March of 2020, we embarked on an ambitious update and expansion of our Wichita clinic. Unbeknownst to us at the time, Texas would ban abortions shortly after we began construction in September of 2021. Over the course of the following months, our Wichita clinic balanced patients and plumbers, contractors and overwhelming media attention, all while anti-abortion legislation ran rampant across the region, increasing the pressure on those clinics in legal states to do more and more.

With the renovations coming to a close, we’re poised to be able to care for more people than ever before. In addition to expanded capacity, we brought the Wichita clinic a much-needed cosmetic update to the interior spaces, creating a space that is safer and more comfortable for patients and staff.
IN A YEAR OF UNPRECEDENTED NEED, Trust Women’s supporters demonstrated incredible dedication to ensuring abortions remained accessible to those who need them. Even as states across the country enacted increasingly authoritarian bans on all facets of reproductive health care, our allies from every state—and several international allies as well—came together to ensure as many people as possible received the health care they needed.

OVERWHELMING SUPPORT

INCOME

62% INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

5% EVENTS

33% GRANTS

FUNDRAISING

7%

MANAGEMENT & GENERAL

9%

PROGRAMS

84%

EXPENSE

SUSTAINING DONORS

422

DONORS AT $1000+

375

PATIENT LIAISON VOLUNTEER HOURS

524

PATIENT LIAISONS

28

CLINIC VOLUNTEERS

524

GENEROUS DONORS

375
When Trust Women opened our Oklahoma City location in 2016, that city had the dubious distinction of being the largest metropolitan area in the country without local access to abortion care. In the six years since opening, our clinic took in thousands of people from across the region. The need for locally accessible reproductive health care across Oklahoma is clear: in 2017, the ratio of OB-GYNs to patients was fewer than 2 for every 10,000 women.

When Texas’ abortion ban, SB 8, was enacted in September of 2021, clinics in Oklahoma took the brunt of the influx of Texans leaving their home state to seek abortion care. According to a University of Texas study that tracked the migration of Texans to out-of-state clinics, nearly 47% of all Texans who left their state traveled to Oklahoma for their abortions. For nearly nine months, our staff persevered through high patient volumes, seeing increasingly complex medical cases exacerbated by the hardships that SB 8 imposed on Texans. In May of 2022, Oklahoma passed its own abortion ban modeled after SB 8. The ban, HB 4327, made all abortions illegal beginning at fertilization and featured the same civil enforcement mechanism that was introduced in Texas the previous year.
In May of 2022, Oklahoma passed a series of abortion bans modeled after Texas’ SB 8: Senate Bill 1503 banned abortions after six weeks and featured the same civil enforcement mechanism that had proved so resilient to challenge in Texas’ SB 8. Later that month, Oklahoma passed House Bill 4327, which banned all abortions at fertilization, making Oklahoma the first state to completely ban abortions, all while Roe was still the law of the land.

While abortions are now illegal in Oklahoma, the need for reproductive health care provided by knowledgeable and compassionate practitioners remains as great as ever. Over the summer, Trust Women OKC has been building our community and we remain dedicated to serving Oklahomans, even while we pivot to new models of care. Over the coming months, we’ll be implementing new community health care programming, including bringing on providers skilled in gender affirmation care, harm reduction and general reproductive health care. We’re partnering with several like-minded organizations to build power and work toward re-legalizing abortions in Oklahoma. The need for abortion care will not disappear under authoritarian laws; the fight is far from over.
On August 2nd, 2022, Kansans from a broad coalition of political beliefs voted resoundingly to maintain the status quo and keep access to abortions legal. This was the correct decision, and also the only compassionate and humane option on the ballot. With this anti-abortion amendment defeated, the residents of Kansas have signaled their strong desire to reject the dangerous acceleration of anti-abortion legislation that has swept the country over the past year, culminating in the disastrous Supreme Court decision overturning Roe vs Wade and Casey vs Planned Parenthood. They rejected the notion that pregnant people are hostages to their pregnancy. They rejected the notion that the most personal and important life decisions must be managed by distant lawmakers. They chose liberty and self-empowerment over extremist ideology, and we wholeheartedly congratulate Kansans on succeeding in holding back the tide of authoritarianism that is rushing across our region.

We know, however, that this will not be the last word in our struggle for reproductive justice, and that our work to expand meaningful access to abortions across the state of Kansas and the region is just beginning.

We have never been content with the status quo. The loss of Roe brought with it an unprecedented and manufactured health care crisis that will significantly impact the state of reproductive health care across our region for years to come.

We are honored to be able to continue to provide abortions for our communities across Kansas, and to the many patients who are seeking relief from their own states’ abortion bans. We will continue to do everything we can to provide refuge and comfort for everyone who visits our clinics.

We are deeply grateful to our allies, neighbors and fellow Kansans for standing up for justice in these increasingly unjust times. We are heartened to see the incredible grassroots activism that supported this campaign and brought the message of liberty and reproductive rights to so many people across our state, and our communities will be better off for all of your hard work.

Our work alongside the Kansans for Constitutional Freedom coalition brought us to the front doors of thousands of Kansans to talk about abortions.
What is the future of abortions in America? Despite the challenges of the past year—the losses and upheavals—we believe the future of abortions is one of liberation and justice. We believe in this future because we see it enacted every day in our clinical work with patients, political work with volunteer canvassers and advocates, and in our conversations with supporters and donors across the country.

No one person has ever done this work alone. All of us at Trust Women remain deeply grateful to our supporters and communities from across the country (and from over a half a dozen countries across the world). Your contributions of money, time and compassion have not only made us what we are today, but embody the spirit of the world we are coming together to build.

We also remain in steadfast solidarity with our patients. We do this work with deep gratitude for the opportunity to hear your stories, support your journeys and fight alongside you for stronger and healthier communities. Your right to choose the direction of your life is not an abstract concept open to debate in the halls of power. We will continue to insist on all of our fundamental rights to bodily autonomy and the all-encompassing freedom that entails, regardless of the barriers put in place by politicians with nothing to lose.

What is the future of abortions in America? As our movement rises to full strength over the coming months, the only answer is: whatever we want it to look like. Now more than ever, we must demand reproductive justice for all people: local, free and beyond all limits.
TRUST WOMEN LEADERSHIP

Schaunta James-Boyd
Co-executive Director

Rebecca Tong
Co-executive Director

Khadijah Bland
Development Director

Zack Gingrich-Gaylord
Communications Director

Myfy Jensen-Fellows
Advocacy Director

Dr. Christina Bourne
Medical Director

Ashley Brink
Wichita Clinic Director

Kailey Voellinger
Oklahoma City Clinic Director

Kiernan Cobb
Director of Nursing

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