

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

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MEMORANDUM

November 11, 2019

To: Members of the Committee on Oversight and Reform

Fr: Majority Staff

Re: Hearing on “Examining State Efforts to Undermine Reproductive Health Care”

On **Thursday, November 14, 2019, at 2:00 pm in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building**, the Committee will hold a hearing to examine state actions—including by the State of Missouri—to restrict access to comprehensive reproductive health care services, including abortion, and the health and economic effects of those restrictions.

I. BACKGROUND

State governments have pursued policies that restrict access to comprehensive reproductive health services for individuals seeking care. These measures—which include the criminalization of abortion and unnecessary requirements on patients, clinics, and providers—have reduced access to critical medical services across the United States.¹ People of color, low-income individuals, and LGBTQ people have been disproportionately impacted by these restrictions.²

In the State of Missouri, a combination of policies has made the state one of six with just one remaining provider of abortion services. Currently, Missouri remains at risk of becoming the first state in the country without a single abortion provider.³

¹ *Missouri Could Become the First State with Zero Abortion Clinics. How Did We Get Here?*, Vox (May 31, 2019) (online at www.vox.com/2019/5/30/18644611/missouri-last-abortion-clinic-2019-planned-parenthood).

² *Recent Abortion Bans Will Impact Poor People and People of Color Most*, Vox (May 18, 2019) (online at www.vox.com/first-person/2019/5/18/18630514/missouri-alabama-abortion-ban-2019-racism); *Abortion Is An LGBTQ Issue, Too, Advocates Stress*, NBC News (Jan. 22, 2018) (online at www.nbcnews.com/feature/nbc-out/abortion-lgbtq-issue-too-advocates-stress-n839966).

³ *These 6 States Have Only 1 Abortion Clinic Left. Missouri Could Become the First with Zero*, CNN (June 21, 2019) (online at www.cnn.com/2019/05/29/health/six-states-with-1-abortion-clinic-map-trnd/index.html).

II. HEARING PURPOSE

The purpose of the hearing is to examine how state policies—like those in Missouri—are impacting residents’ access to comprehensive reproductive health care services, including abortion. The hearing will also examine how the Trump Administration’s sustained and systemic attacks on reproductive health have emboldened state actions, and it will explore the federal government’s role in preserving access to reproductive health care services for patients across the United States.

III. WITNESSES

Fatima Goss Graves

President and Chief Executive Officer
National Women’s Law Center

Marcela Howell

Founder and President/Chief Executive Officer
In Our Own Voice

Additional Witnesses TBD

Staff contacts: Miles Lichtman and Jennifer Gaspar at (202) 225-5051.