Abortion, as currently provided in the US, is very safe.

Only 2 out of every 1000 women require treatment in a hospital.

The safety profile for abortion is similar to or better than other outpatient surgeries that are not regulated in a similar way.

In total 44 states have passed TRAP laws with provisions like:

- Requiring hospital admitting privileges within a 30 mile radius.
- Remodeling the clinic space into an ambulatory surgery center.
- Or, requiring medication to be taken in the clinic instead of at home.

In 2013, the state of Texas passed HB2 which enacted the strongest forms of TRAP laws seen in the US.

The Result of HB2?

Before HB2 (enacted in 2013), 41 facilities existed in Texas. Two years later there were only 17 clinics open.

As clinics closed, the remaining facilities became concentrated in the largest cities. This means that women traveled farther to access care, and they ended up paying more out of pocket.

The total number of abortions declined by 13%.

There was a 70% drop in medication abortions.

An increase in abortions performed AFTER 12 WEEKS of gestation.

Second-trimester abortion, although very safe, is associated with a higher rate of complications compared to first-trimester abortion. This resulted in a greater expense for women and increased hardship with fewer providers available.

In June of 2016, the Supreme Court ruled provisions of HB2 unconstitutional.

For more information on this series and others please visit:

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