

Planned Parenthood of Nassau County, Inc.

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**Supreme Court Ruling: *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt***

**Hempstead, NY – June 27, 2016** – Planned Parenthood of Nassau County (PPNC) is pleased to announce that **THE SUPREME COURT RULED THAT TEXAS' CLINIC SHUTDOWN LAW IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL**. Within the case, two provisions of Texas' clinic shutdown law (HB2) threatened to severely restrict access to safe, legal abortion across Texas: (1) a mandate that health centers that provide abortions adhere to the same standards as ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs) and (2) a requirement that doctors who provide abortions obtain admitting privileges at a local hospital. The case was brought by several Texas abortion providers, represented by the Center for Reproductive Rights. **The outcome for Texas is as follows:** Abortions do not need to be performed by physicians with local admitting privileges or in an ASC (although underlying Texas law requires that they be performed in licensed abortion facilities and in an ASC after 16 weeks). Effects on other states are as follows: While the Court's ruling will have a nationwide effect, no other state laws will be immediately struck down. It is possible that the standard that the Court sets could be used to challenge restrictions in other states.

Justices Anthony Kennedy, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan joined Justice Stephen Breyer in his opinion for the court that held that the regulations are medically unnecessary and unconstitutionally limit a woman's right to an abortion. Breyer wrote that "the surgical-center requirement, like the admitting privileges requirement, provides few, if any, health benefits for women, poses a substantial obstacle to women seeking abortions and constitutes an 'undue burden' on their constitutional right to do so." **This sweeping ruling preserves the rights of the approximately 5.4 million women of reproductive age in Texas and blockades the attempt to close approximately 30 health centers across the state.**

**We at Planned Parenthood of Nassau County are proud to stand with all women every day and especially today, as we know that this is the most significant decision from the Supreme court on abortion in two decades. This is a monumental move in the right direction because it will serve to challenge existing restrictions in other states. We will continue our efforts to ensure abortion access and we are excited to keep up the fight.** For more information on action steps, email [ppnc@ppnc.org](mailto:ppnc@ppnc.org).

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Planned Parenthood of Nassau County (PPNC) is one of 59 affiliates of Planned Parenthood Federation of America and operates 3 health centers in Hempstead, Glen Cove and Massapequa. In 2014, PPNC provided preventive health services to more than 14,200 patients during more than 27,889 visits. PPNC's staff conducted education workshops, street outreach and prevention programs to over 32,200 community members, and mobilized close to 11,000 advocates to protect reproductive health care rights. PPNC has served the community for 82 years, and is dedicated to educating and empowering individuals to make responsible choices regarding their sexuality and sexual health. Nationally, Planned Parenthood provides 2.7 million women, men and young people each year with critical health care. More than half of Planned Parenthood health centers are in rural or medically underserved areas. For more information about PPNC's services and programs, visit [www.ppnc.org](http://www.ppnc.org).