



The Honorable Greg Abbott
Office of the Governor of Texas
State Insurance Building
1100 San Jacinto
Austin, Texas 78701

Copy: Chargé d'affaires of the U.S. Mission to the European Union Kelly Adams-Smith

Dear Governor Abbott,

Reproductive choice — a woman's right to make a private decision about her body and to decide whether to carry or terminate an pregnancy without political interference — is fundamental to a woman's autonomy.

It is therefore with deep concern that we have taken note of the passing of a new law restricting abortion in your State of Texas. The law makes it illegal to terminate a pregnancy by the time a heartbeat is detectable. However, fetal cardiac activity can only be detected as early as six weeks from the last menstrual period. This law undermines women's autonomy especially since the vast majority of women are unaware of their pregnancy by that mark. The ban makes abortion de facto illegal and only available to those who can afford to travel out of Texas, meaning that people on a low income and people of color will be harmed most.

The law also contains an unprecedented provision that encourages private individuals — including anti-abortion protestors and likeminded people with no connection to the patient — to file lawsuits against healthcare providers and anyone aiding in the procedure. Offering monetary rewards to any citizen who successfully sues an abortion provider will result in harassment of providers and isolates women from anyone who would help them during their pregnancy.

Women in the United States have a constitutional right to the liberty to choose to have an abortion without excessive government restriction, as set out in *Roe v. Wade*. Attacking safe and legal health care and putting women's lives at risk, even incentivizing individuals to interfere with someone's private choices, is a blatant violation of those rights. The protection of women's rights is imperative to the values both the United States and the European Union stand for.

We, Members of the European Parliament, therefore urge you to respect women's rights and repeal this law.

Sincerely,
Samira Rafaela, Member of the European Parliament

Co-signed by 112 Members of the European Parliament:

Clara Aguilera	Martin Hojsík
Francois Alfonsi	Jan Huitema
Abir Al-Sahlani	Yannick Jadot
Rasmus Andresen	Agnes Jongerius
Manon Aubry	Irena Joveva
Petras Austrevicius	Eugen Jurzyca
Malik Azmani	Assita Kanko
Tiziana Beghin	Billy Kelleher
Brando Benifei	Dietmar Köster
Robert Biedroń	Stelios Kouloglou
Benoit Biteau	Alice Kuhnke
Izaskun Bilbao Barandica	Miapetra Kumpula-Natri
Vilija Blinkevičiūtė	Stelios Kypouropoulos
Michael Bloss	Aurore Lalucq
Manuel Bompard	Maria Manuel Leitão Marques
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Saskia Bricmont	Toine Manders
Sylvie Brunet	Marisa Matias
Delare Burkhardt	Fred Matic
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Olivier Chastel	Karen Melchior
Ilana Cicurel	Tilly Metz
Dacian Cioloș	Martina Michels
Ignazio Corrao	Silvia Modig
Ciarán Cuffe	Ulrike Müller
Clare Daly	Caroline Nagtegaal
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Lucia Ďuriš Nicholsonová	Dimitrios Papadimoulis
Bas Eickhout	Maite Pagazaurtundua
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