



MPHA joins APHA¹ in expressing our deep dismay of the Supreme Court's failure to block Texas statute restricting access and affirms access to abortion as a public health issue

September 17, 2021

The Minnesota Public Health Association recognizes abortion as an essential healthcare service and access to it as an important public health issue. Restrictions and bans on abortion undermine the Roe v. Wade decision and serve as a means to further exacerbate systemic inequities experienced by many communities, including American Indians, communities of color and LGBTQ+ communities.

The recent Supreme Court decision allows a Texas law to ban abortion at six weeks of pregnancy. It also allows for legal action to be taken by ordinary citizens (including those from outside of Texas) against abortion clinics, doctors, any person seeking or planning to seek abortion services or anyone helping a person get an abortion in Texas after the six-week timeframe². If successful, plaintiffs can earn up to \$10,000. Moreover, this ban does not make exceptions for rape or incest³. The Texas law is contrary to longstanding MPHA policies supporting people's fundamental right to a full range of reproductive health services, including abortion.

Recent years have seen increasing attacks on reproductive rights, nationally and in Minnesota⁴. The Texas statute bans abortion before many people know they are pregnant, encourages intimidation of people seeking healthcare, and effectively removes freedom of choice. Abortion restrictions and bans increase medical risks for pregnant people, disproportionately impacts low-income communities and communities of color, disrespects the relationship between a patient and medical provider, and undermines the autonomy of people over their own lives. This has widespread and serious consequences and is contrary to public health goals.

¹ American Public Health Association. (9/1/21) *APHA dismayed over Texas abortion ban, court refusal to act*. <https://www.apha.org/News-and-Media/News-Releases/APHA-News-Releases/2021/Texas-abortion-ban>

² The New York Times. (9/7/21) *Citizens, Not the State, Will Enforce New Abortion Laws in Texas*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/09/us/abortion-law-regulations-texas.html>

³ New Mexico Public Health Association. (9/3/21) *NMPHA dismayed over Texas abortion ban, court refusal to act*. <http://www.nmpaha.org/resources/Documents/NMPHA%20SB8%20Statement.docx>

⁴ Unrestrict Minnesota. *Minnesota Laws*. Retrieved September 14, 2021, from <https://unrestrictmn.org/minnesota-abortion-laws/>



Federal courts in other states have struck down similar bans. The Texas ban must not be allowed to stand, similar efforts in Minnesota must be defeated and we must support efforts to protect the reproductive health of Minnesotans⁵. The Minnesota Public Health Association stands firmly committed to reproductive justice, and that a person's reproductive health should be decided between that person and their medical provider.

Internet post

The Minnesota Public Health Association has a long history of supporting reproductive health rights with our member-approved resolutions. We join the American Public Health Association as well as other affiliates in expressing our deep concerns over the Supreme Court's failure to block Texas statute that significantly restricts access to abortion.

Restrictions and bans on abortion undermine the Roe v. Wade decision and serve as a means to further exacerbate systemic inequities experienced by many communities, including American Indians, communities of color and LGBTQ+ communities. The Minnesota Public Health Association stands firmly committed to reproductive justice, and that a person's reproductive health should be decided between that person and their medical provider.

You can read our full statement at mpha.net/Media-Resources.

A graphic with a red border and a yellow background. It contains the text: "The Minnesota Public Health Association joins the American Public Health Association in expressing our deep dismay of the Supreme Court's failure to block Texas statute restricting access to abortion and affirms access to abortion as a public health issue." Below the text is the MPHA logo (a multi-colored swirl) and the text "Read our full statement on mpha.net".

The Minnesota Public Health Association joins the American Public Health Association in expressing our deep dismay of the Supreme Court's failure to block Texas statute restricting access to abortion and affirms access to abortion as a public health issue.

 Read our full statement on mpha.net

⁵ Unrestrict Minnesota. *Welcome to the Community Hub*. Retrieved September 14, 2021, from <https://unrestrictmn.org/community/>