



**American Academy of Nursing**  
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## **American Academy of Nursing Applauds U.S. Supreme Court Decision on Texas Abortion Access Law**

**Washington, D.C. (June 27, 2016)** - American Academy of Nursing President *Bobbie Berkowitz, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN*, issued the following statement regarding today's U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*. The justices' 5-3 ruling overturned a widely duplicated Texas abortion access law that would have closed all but a few clinics in the state.

"The American Academy of Nursing applauds the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*, the most significant abortion case in 20 years. This ruling is a strong affirmation of the critical need for all women to have unrestricted access to safe, legal health care.

The Texas law's onerous restrictions on access to abortion care would have closed all but 10 abortion clinics in a state with 5.4 million women of reproductive age, and left 500 miles between San Antonio and the New Mexico border without a clinic. Put simply, laws like these make it nearly impossible for a woman who has decided to end a pregnancy to get the safe, legal, high-quality care she needs.

The American Academy of Nursing supported *Whole Woman's Health*, the lead plaintiff in the case, and was a signatory on one of 45 "friend-of-the-court" briefs filed in January.

Nurses, as health care professionals dedicated to supporting the health and safety of their patients, recognize that legislation restricting patient access keeps us from providing the patient care we are trained and dedicated to provide. We support our patients and stand ready to serve them both in the hospital and policy arenas."

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The American Academy of Nursing (<http://www.AANnet.org>) serves the public and the nursing profession by advancing health policy and practice through the generation, synthesis, and dissemination of nursing knowledge. The Academy's more than 2,400 Fellows are nursing's most accomplished leaders in education, management, practice, policy, and research. They have been recognized for their extraordinary contributions to nursing and health care.