



## **The Impact of the Texas' Abortion Clinic Shutdown Law on Black Women**

Texas' clinic shutdown law, referred to as HB2, has severely impacted abortion access for women across Texas and Black women are disproportionately affected. As the United States Supreme Court reviews the law, a number of Black women's reproductive justice organizations explained in a [brief](#) that this law **"dramatically heighten[s] the already significant barriers to obtaining quality reproductive healthcare"** faced by Black women in the state.

For the **725,000 Black women** of reproductive age in Texas, this law creates higher costs, longer delays and extra steps for women seeking an abortion.

### **Black Women Already Face Significant Barriers to Accessing Reproductive Health Care**

- Black women have been systematically denied resources, services and information needed to make important personal decisions about their health.
- Black women are more likely to lack access to comprehensive sex education and contraception.
- As a consequence, they experience higher rates of unintended pregnancy than women of any other ethnic or racial group. Moreover, rates of unintended pregnancy among Black women [more than double](#) those of non-Hispanic white women.
- Black women are also more likely to experience pregnancy-related complications, or become gravely ill or die in childbirth. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Black women are nearly [four times as likely to die of pregnancy-related complications](#) as white women.

### **Black Women Are Disproportionately Impacted by Texas' Clinic Shutdown Law**

- Economic hardship, inflexible work schedules and extensive family obligations are facts of life for many Black women living in Texas.
- Therefore obstacles resulting from the law – like [longer wait times](#), increased travel and financial costs, and other factors like child care – make abortion all but impossible for many women.

### **Black Women Overwhelmingly Depend on Clinics for a Range of Health Care Services**

- Black women make up a significant proportion of women seeking abortions in Texas. As recently as 2012, approximately 25 percent of the abortions performed in Texas were obtained by Black women—despite the fact that this group comprises only 13.1 percent of Texas women of reproductive age.
- Black women in Texas are more likely to be uninsured and rely on clinics for a range of preventive and basic health services. As Texas has one of the highest uninsured rates in the country, these women and their families will have nowhere to turn as clinics close.

[Brief](#) Signers included: In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda; The Afiya Center; Access Reproductive Care Southeast; Black Women for Wellness; Black Women's Health Imperative; New Voices for Reproductive Justice; SisterLove, Inc.; SisterReach; SisterSong; The National Women of Color Reproductive; Justice Collective; SPARK Reproductive Justice NOW!; URGE: United for Reproductive & Gender Equity; and, Women With a Vision, Inc.