

## Accessible Abortion By Tess Taetle

In the state of Missouri, there is only one abortion clinic left, yet the state is refusing to renew its license. If this clinic can no longer provide abortions, 25,000 women would no longer be in the range of an abortion clinic that is considered accessible for health care, according to the NYT article, “For Millions of American Women, Abortion Access is Out of Reach.” If the Planned Parenthood in St. Louis, Missouri closes, Missouri would be first state in nearly 50 years with no abortion accessibility within the state. Missouri passed a law that prohibits abortion after eight weeks. Women often cannot tell if they are pregnant until after eight weeks. The NYT article states that “Abortion-rights advocates and providers say such restrictions and clinic closings do not reduce the demand for abortions; instead, they increase the distance patients must travel to receive care and strain the resources of the clinics that remain.” These are clear moves to restrict abortion access.

Access to abortion has been argued in the United States, and has not been as objected to as much as has recently. Abortion was illegal in the United States until 1973, when the Supreme Court Case *Roe v. Wade*, won women their rights to an abortion. *Roe v. Wade* remains legal, but the number of abortion clinics is decreasing. In 1996 there were 452 abortion clinics in the US, but as of 2014 there were 272. Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kentucky, Mississippi, and West Virginia, only have one abortion clinic left. Abortion laws are becoming stricter. Texas introduced a law that will put women who get abortions on death penalty. If we continue to allow legislators and the Trump Administration, to make harsher abortion laws, soon no women in the US will be able get a safe abortion, even in cases of rape, incest, or poor financial stability. There must be at least one abortion clinic in each state.

The Trump Administration is openly anti-abortion and Trump was the first president in US history to speak at a March for Life, an annual protest that fights for stricter abortion laws and for *Roe v. Wade* to be overturned. Trump claimed to be a strong defender of the fetuses.

There are countless ways to improve the number of abortion clinics and make sure abortion laws do not continue to get stricter, but the most crucial is to send a letters to your state representatives and vote prochoice the 2020 election. To have a future where what happens to a women's body is her choice, abortion **must** remain legal and accessible.

### Works Cited:

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