



Louisiana Abortion Case Goes to SCOTUS

The Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) announced that it will hear oral arguments in Louisiana's pro-woman admitting privileges case, *June Medical Services v. Gee*, on **March 4, 2020**.

Louisiana Solicitor General Liz Murrill issued the following statement:

"Women deserve better than incompetent providers that put profits over people. Louisiana isn't Texas, and our case is distinguishable from *Hellerstedt*; our facts, our evidence, and our generally applicable medical standards are all different. This bipartisan legislation is necessary because Louisiana abortion providers have a long documented history of medical malpractice, disciplinary actions, and violations of health and safety standards. The doctrine of third party standing in abortion litigation hurts women and girls. This is judge-made law that lets the fox guard the henhouse. It permits abortion providers to co-opt women's voices in service of their own profit-driven agenda seeking to block common-sense regulations and lower health care standards."

Attorney General Jeff Landry added, "In addition to agreeing to consider the merits of Louisiana's admitting privileges law, we are pleased the Court has also agreed to take up Louisiana's challenge to the third-party standing of abortion providers to bring these types of challenges in the first place. The evidence of Louisiana abortion clinics' poor safety records, inadequate credentialing practices, and questionable efforts to undermine health and safety regulations shows that the abortion clinics' interests are directly adverse to the interests of Louisiana women. Incompetent and unsafe providers should not be allowed to challenge health and safety standards designed to protect women from those very providers."

Please make a commitment to pray for Attorney General Jeff Landry and Solicitor General Liz Murrill in this battle to protect women's health.

In another important development, [the Fifth Circuit issued a procedural ruling](#) on Louisiana's petition to unseal court documents in a separate case brought by the same Shreveport abortion clinic. Louisiana argued that Obama-appointed judges at the federal district court issued an overly broad protective order to seal records, possibly hiding criminal conduct from the public, and preventing the state from making criminal referrals and bringing the information to the attention of the U.S. Supreme Court in the related case that will be argued March 4, 2020.

The Fifth Circuit denied the request on technical grounds but indicated that Louisiana may file an appeal to unseal the documents through an expedited review. Judge Jennifer Walker Elrod issued a concurring opinion harshly criticizing the protective order. Judge Elrod's concurrence reveals a **sealed deposition** in which **one abortionist, Dr. Doe 2, claims that another Louisiana abortionist, Dr. Doe 5, is inducing labor on women during the second trimester to perform an abortion**. Elrod writes that Doe 2 stated that this type of procedure in the second trimester is **outside the standard of care and a live birth is "certainly a possibility."** In addition, the concurrence indicates that the sealed documents contain evidence of **unreported statutory rape, unauthorized abortion on a minor, and improper destruction of patient records**.