

The Reproductive Health Care Training Act

Introduced by Senators Tammy Baldwin and Patty Murray

A bill to ensure that the next generation of health care providers receive training and education in abortion care, regardless of where they reside

Background: On June 24, 2022, in its decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, the Supreme Court overruled *Roe v. Wade*, reversing decades of precedent recognizing the constitutional right to terminate a pregnancy. This decision has decimated access to abortion for millions of people in the U.S. Dozens of states have reverted to banning most procedures, undermining women's freedom to make their own decisions about their health and their families.

In the wake of this decision, medical education has suffered, as institutions face additional obstacles in ensuring that residents and students receive proper training to provide reproductive health care. Educational institutions in states with abortion bans—like Wisconsin—have been forced to send students out of state to receive training, as institutions in states where abortion is legal—like Washington—deal with an influx of health care professionals in need of training in abortion care.

The *Dobbs* decision has already caused significant harm to our nation's health care workforce. In this new landscape, we must ensure that health care professionals in every state can get the training and education they need to provide reproductive health care.

The Reproductive Health Care Training Act would establish a program, funded at \$25 million each year for the next five years, to award grants or contracts to eligible medical programs for:

- Expanding and supporting education for students, residents, or advanced practice clinicians in states that allow comprehensive training in abortion care; and
- Preparing students, residents, and advanced practice clinicians to serve as abortion providers after completing such training to meet the current need.

Grants would be available to accredited health professions schools, academic health centers, and other safety-net providers in all states to offset the additional costs associated with training providers in a post-*Roe* world. The bill would:

- Allow funds to be used for clinical training and development of educational programs in abortion care, instructor and faculty development, stipends to support access to training, and improving care in medically underserved areas, among other uses.
- Prioritize funds for clinical training in states that provide comprehensive abortion care and support training for individuals from places where abortion care is otherwise limited.