

The Reproductive Health Care Training Act

Introduced by Senators Tammy Baldwin (WI) and Patty Murray (WA)

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 United States. Thirteen states have effectively banned abortion, and many more have severe restrictions in place that make care inaccessible—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 effective abortion bans have been forced to send students out of state to receive training, as institutions in states like Washington deal with an influx of health care professionals in need of training in abortion care.

The *Dobbs* decision has already had a significant impact on the health care workforce. It is vital for institutions to have the support needed to ensure that health care professionals receive the training and education necessary to provide reproductive health care.

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

- Expanding and supporting education for students, residents, or advanced practice clinicians in states that permit comprehensive training in abortion care; and
- Preparing and encouraging students, residents, and advanced practice clinicians training to serve as abortion providers after completing such training

Grants would be available to health professions schools and academic health centers 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, amongst other uses.
- Prioritize funds for clinical training in states that provide comprehensive abortion care, supports training for those from places where abortion care is otherwise limited, and are institutions that are minority serving or provide training to increase the representation of minority health professionals.

The Reproductive Health Travel Fund Act is endorsed by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Power to Decide, Physicians for Reproductive Health, National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association, and UW-Health.