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Friend-of-the-Court Brief for Texas Abortion Case at Supreme Court

USCCB and Five Other Faith-Based Organizations

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Texas Catholic Conference joined other faith-based groups in filing a friend-of-the-court brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in support of a Texas law requiring enhanced health and safety standards at abortion clinics. The filing comes in the case of *Whole Women's Health v. Hellerstedt*. The 2013 Texas law requires that clinics meet the same standards as ambulatory surgical centers when performing abortions and also requires abortion doctors to have admitting privileges

“Providers do not stand in the shoes of their patients when they resist regulations that promote patient health and safety.”

at a hospital near an abortion clinic. The brief argued that the Texas law should be upheld in its entirety. The document said the Supreme Court has held since the advent of *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark 1973 case legalizing abortion in the U.S., that states may enforce standards regarding the qualifications of doctors who perform abortions and the conditions of facilities in which abortions are carried out. “To hold that states may not enact measures like the Texas law challenged here would be a betrayal of over 40 years of precedent,” the brief said. “There is ample evidence in this case that hospital admitting privileges and ambulatory surgical requirements protect women’s lives and health,” the brief continued. “When such requirements are not enforced, abuses detrimental to women’s lives and health arise.” The case is the first involving abortion that the high court has taken in eight years. Joining the brief were the National Association of Evangelicals, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention. The brief, prepared by USCCB lawyers, follows.

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the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Texas Catholic Conference, National Association of Evangelicals, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptists of

continued on page 730

2249A



contents

- 729 Friend-of-the-Court Brief for Texas Abortion Case at Supreme Court
by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Five Other Faith-Based Organizations
- 737 Friend-of-the-Court Brief for Immigration Case at Supreme Court
by Twenty-Four Faith-Based Organizations
- 742 A Call to Overcome Racism
by Archbishop Stephen Brislin
- 744 Datebook
- 744 On File

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