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Why Courts Matter PA Statement on U.S. Supreme Court's *Whole Woman's Health* Decision

PENNSYLVANIA – Today, the United States Supreme Court issued a 5-3 ruling in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt* that set a strong legal standard that will protect women's access to abortion across the country — including here in Pennsylvania — and reiterated the importance of the Supreme Court in our daily lives.

The Court ruled that the provisions of Texas' anti-choice law violate the U.S. Constitution. The ruling reaffirms every woman's constitutional right to her reproductive choices, and saw through Texas politicians' attempts to end access to safe abortion care by closing down clinics and restricting the availability of comprehensive reproductive health care to only those with the financial means to afford it.

These false health justifications were found to be an unacceptable barrier to a woman exercising her constitutional right to choose. This is a critical moment for women and families across this country.

Today's ruling is an excellent reminder that we often turn to the Supreme Court to protect constitutional rights that affect all of our lives, including the critical and deeply personal issue of access to safe abortion care. And yet, PA's own Senator, Pat Toomey, and his Republican colleagues continue to neglect their own constitutional duties by continuing to block President Obama's Supreme Court nominee, Chief Judge Merrick Garland.

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