

Statement from Louisiana Attorney General's Office on Act 620

Louisiana's law would not force any clinic closures.

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld Louisiana's law as constitutional and found that Louisiana's law would not force any clinic closures, saying, "there is no evidence that any of the clinics will close as a result of the Act." They reiterated this finding later in their decisions, saying that, "the only permissible finding, under this record, is that no clinics will likely be forced to close on account of the Act."

Louisiana did not single out abortion providers.

Under previous Louisiana law, abortion clinics were an exception to the generally applicable regulations requiring other medical staff performing high-volume outpatient procedures to hold admitting privileges at nearby hospitals. Act 620 merely closed the existing statutory loophole by requiring abortion clinics to meet the same standards as other outpatient facilities in the state.

Louisiana provided the court with plentiful state-specific evidence of the necessity and benefits of the requirement.

Public records and legislative testimony provided to the court in *June Medical Services vs. Russo* demonstrate how the documented history of substandard care, the lack of any meaningful competency consideration in hiring medical staff, and serial non-compliance with basic health and safety standards in Louisiana abortion clinics, necessitated the passage of Act 620. Among other evidence, the Louisiana legislators and the courts have heard how clinics like June Medical have hired radiologists and ophthalmologists to perform surgical procedures on women, have been cited for failing to monitor the vital signs of sedated women undergoing surgical procedures, and failed to protect young girls by not following reporting laws for sexual crimes against minors.

The Fifth Circuit's opinion upholding Louisiana's law additionally acknowledged that "the admitting privileges requirement performs a real, and previously unaddressed, credentialing function that promotes the well-being of women seeking abortion."

Louisiana abortionists have gone to extraordinary lengths to block this bipartisan law that promotes the well-being of women and protects minor girls who may find themselves in the hands of incompetent providers and under unsafe conditions. The Attorney General's Office will not waver in defense of the pro-woman law, and we will continue to do all we legally can to protect Louisiana's women and girls.