



## LETTERS

# Moves to address abortion laws gather force

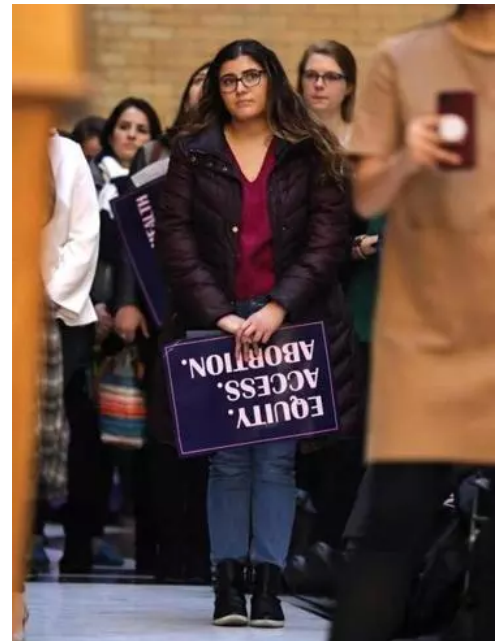
FEBRUARY 04, 2019

## Even in Mass., legal abortion does not ensure access

The Trump administration clearly has emboldened politicians to roll back reproductive rights ([“In Mass., a push to ease access to abortion,”](#) Page A1, Jan. 28), but attacks on safe, legal abortion aren’t new. For decades, politicians have imposed their own beliefs on others and erected barriers to abortion. Even here in Massachusetts, we must contend with decades-old, politically motivated restrictions that determine when, how, and why a person can access safe, legal abortion.

These entrenched barriers to abortion mean many people in Massachusetts must postpone care, navigate the judicial system, or travel to other states to access abortion. This is care they should be able to access right here and without delay. These restrictions were in place long before President Trump took office, and they urgently need to be addressed, regardless of who is in the White House or on the Supreme Court.

In Massachusetts, abortion is legal, but that’s not enough. After all, a legal right means little to a person who cannot access it. With the ROE Act, which has been introduced in the Legislature, Massachusetts can ensure that abortion is not only safe and legal but also affordable and accessible to all people.



PAT GREENHOUSE/FILE 2019/THE BOSTON GLOBE

**Abortion rights activists lobbied at the State House last month.**

Ashley Brown

Cambridge

### **Ob-gyn has seen the harm of abortion restrictions**

As an obstetrician and gynecologist, I have the great privilege of walking my patients through the journey of pregnancy and birth. I support them through the good and the bad — an ultrasound that shows a serious birth defect, a sexual assault, an unplanned pregnancy. Nothing is more frustrating than when medically unnecessary, prejudicial laws prevent my patients from accessing the health care they need, including safe, legal abortion.

I've seen firsthand how Massachusetts' onerous abortion restrictions harm the health and well-being of women and families. I've cared for patients forced to carry a pregnancy that would not survive to term. I've had to turn away patients because they did not qualify for MassHealth. These have been some of the most heartbreaking moments of my career.

These unjust laws prevent doctors like me from offering patients the kind of medical care they need and deserve. In a time when much of the country is moving backward on reproductive health care, the ROE Act can move us forward. My patients — and all people in Massachusetts — deserve nothing less.

Dr. Luu Ireland

Worcester

### **New York's celebration of abortion bill is an abhorrent display**

I can think of nothing more abhorrent and evil than the New York Assembly passing a bill approving full-term abortion. This was followed by the governor signing the bill and calling for celebration, including [the lighting of One World Trade Center in pink](#).

Celebrating the taking of lives of beautiful, innocent, helpless children? New York State and America are out of control in allowing pure evil to rule.

This abortion bill is a blow to New York, to America, and to humanity.

People should not remain silent. It is our duty to speak up. God will judge all of us and what we did at this time in allowing this to happen to his children.

Al DiLascia

Chicopee

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