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Federal appeals court rules Indiana abortion clinic can operate without license

by Selina Guevara, WSBT 22 Reporter | Friday, August 23rd 2019



A federal appeals court has ruled a South Bend abortion clinic can continue to operate. (WSBT)





SOUTH BEND, IN ([WSBT](#)) — A federal appeals court has ruled a South Bend abortion clinic can continue to operate.

Whole Woman's Health opened the clinic on the city's west side back in June.

A federal judge ruled the state's licensing process was too burdensome and allowed the clinic to operate without a license. The Attorney General challenged that ruling.

But the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Thursday the clinic can continue to operate with a provisional license.

Whole Woman's Health Alliance says today's ruling is a victory for women's healthcare in our area, and opponents don't share that opinion.

“We are obviously thrilled that the court recognized the burdensome nature of the licensing process and is allowing us to stay open so we can serve the patients of west Indiana,” said Sharon Lau, WWH spokesperson.

In its ruling, the appeals court judges wrote: "Indiana is entitled to protect patient safety and fetal life through its licensing scheme, but if it is doing little more than throwing up one hurdle after another in an effort to keep the Alliance's doors closed, it has gone beyond constitutional boundaries."

Whole Woman's Health says if its clinic closed, women would have to travel for its services.

“That really places extra hurdles in front of the patients who might need to take extra time off work, or you know, pay to travel and so some of those patients can hopefully get the healthcare that they need in their own community,” said Lau.

Right to Life groups says today's ruling is a disappointment.

"This is an attack not only on state's rights but on families and children," said Jackie Appleman, Right to Life. "The appeals court, which granted a license without an abortion chain that has a history of violations against women's health and safety, has overstepped its bounds just to pander to the abortion lobby."

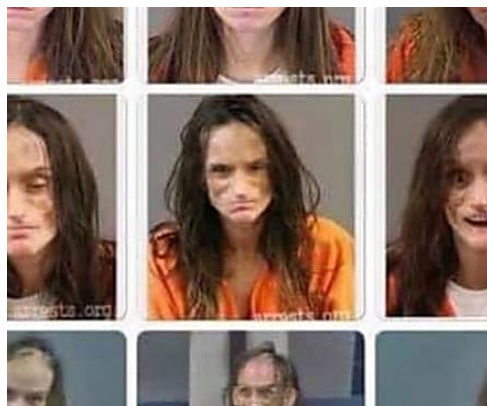
You may remember the Indiana Department of Health twice denied license for the clinic, saying it failed to provide requested documentation.

The Attorney General's office sent us an email saying they are quote "studying the decision."

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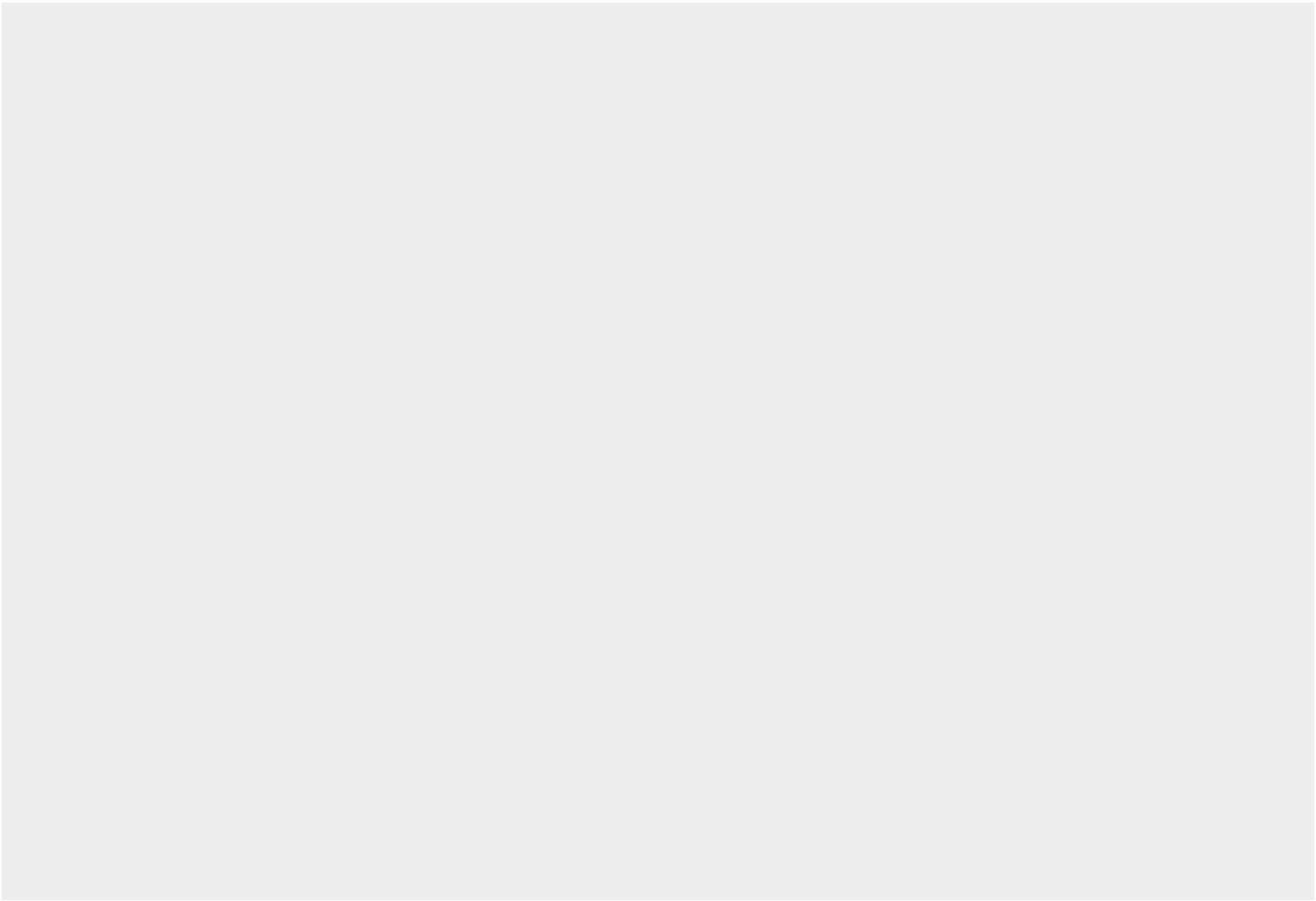


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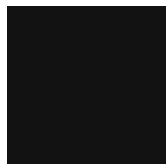


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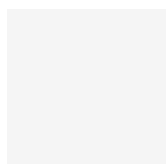




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