



AHMAD AL-RUBAYE/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

An Iraqi man walked over a portrait of President Trump as members of a paramilitary force protested in Baghdad.

said, openly carried out by Iranian forces themselves, three Iranians familiar with the meeting said Monday.

It was a startling departure for the Iranian leadership. Since the establishment of the Islamic Republic in 1979, Tehran had almost always cloaked its attacks behind the actions of proxies it had cultivated around the region. But in the fury generated by the killing of Soleimani, a close ally and personal

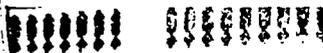
IRAN, Page A6

## LLIKE NO OTHER

Monday at Faneuil Hall, represent Boston history, including the first serves a seat and everyone in a speech accepting her site men had long dominated the inaugural (below). B1.



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF



GLOBE STAFF

## Abortion clinic fights to stay open amid debts

Even in Mass., procedure in peril, supporters say

By Stephanie Ebbert

GLOBE STAFF

The threat of abortion clinic closures has become commonplace in such states as Missouri and Louisiana, where lawmakers have passed bills aimed at curtailing the procedures.

But the threat has hit home in progressive Massachusetts, where the state's third busiest abortion clinic revealed it's in a fight for survival. Its medical

director recently launched a GoFundMe page aimed at raising \$250,000 fast.

"We are at a crossroads," wrote Laurent "Lolly" DelliBovi, medical director of Women's Health Services in Brookline. "WHS will have to close within the next three months if we do not receive sustaining donor support."

Outside of hospitals, Women's Health Services is the only standalone clinic in the state that offers abortions up to the state's legal limit of 24 weeks. Comparably, three Planned Parenthood clinics in Massachusetts stop offering abortion

CLINIC, Page B7

## Free buses in Boston? Idea begins to gain momentum

By Adam Vaccaro

GLOBE STAFF

It promises to be a big year on the transportation front, as the Legislature prepares to debate new money for the rail and road systems that may prove at odds with funding initiatives already backed by Governor Charlie Baker.

Against this backdrop, a once-radical idea to fight Boston's horrific traffic has seemingly taken hold: Eliminate transit fares outright, or at least make rides on Massachusetts

Bay Transportation Authority buses free.

The idea has been bandied about in small circles of transportation advocates for years. But it has gained much wider discussion since last year's MBTA fare hike. In the face of protests from activists and politicians, T officials elected not to increase bus fares, and one of the most prominent proponents of free fares, Boston City Councilor Michelle Wu, is widely seen as a potential can-

FREE BUS, Page A4

# Abortion clinic fights to stay open as debts mount

► CLINIC

*Continued from Page A1*

services 20 weeks, six days after a woman's last period.

"Independent abortion providers are a key part of the ecosystem of abortion access and are essential parts of their communities. When politicians chip away at abortion access, independent providers can carry the heaviest burdens while fighting with fewer resources," said Dr. Jennifer Childs-Roshak, chief executive of the Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts.

The crisis at Women's Health Services does not stem directly from a cut to government funding but from the failure to win a grant of several hundred thousand dollars it had requested for debt relief through the National Abortion Federation, Delli-Bovi said.

But it reflects the pressure that the clinic was already under, providing abortions at less than cost, and the realities of today's landscape for reproductive rights organizations. With clinics dwindling in several states and such behemoths as Planned Parenthood competing for donors nationwide, it has been hard for abortion rights advocates to grab attention in a blue state like Massachusetts.

"There is a tendency to think, in Massachusetts, that things are fine," said Delli-Bovi. "Or that it's less worthy of support" than other areas,



JONATHAN WIGGS/GLOBE STAFF

Laurent "Lolly" Delli-Bovi, medical director of Women's Health Services in Brookline (below), has started a fund-raising campaign for the clinic. She says the clinic has three months to turn around its finances.



MassHealth reimbursements.

"We basically never turn anyone away," Delli-Bovi said. "If they need a late second trimester abortion, we will reduce our charges so it's not

"In a time of ongoing political attacks on health care access, we need all doors to stay open," said Childs-Roshak, of Planned Parenthood.

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"There is a tendency to think, in Massachusetts, that things are fine," said Delli-Bovi. "Or that it's less worthy of support" than other areas, where abortion access is more immediately threatened.

Massachusetts has 25 abortion providers, most of which are hospitals, according to data from the Department of Public Health, and its state Medicaid program pays for abortions.

Hospital care is more expensive and immersive than a clinic visit would be.

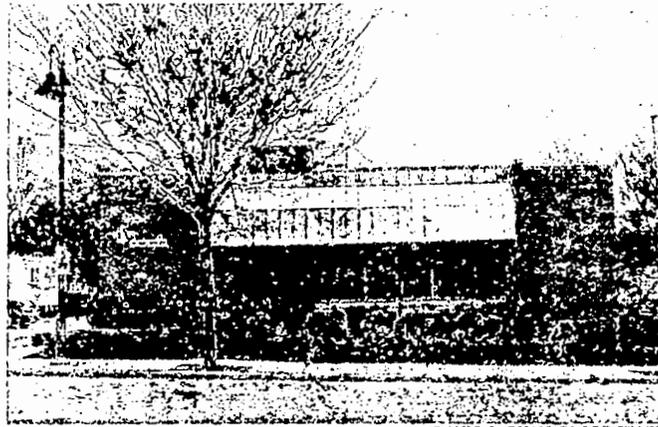
Women's Health Services, which has been providing help for almost 28 years, charges \$700 for abortions in the first trimester (up to 13 weeks of pregnancy). In the second trimester, up to 24 weeks, it can cost up to \$3,000.

The cost of hospital abortions varies based on the facility and health insurance, but one abortion rights survey listed two examples of hospitals where first-trimester abor-



JONATHAN WIGGS/GLOBE STAFF

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DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

tions cost \$1,400 and \$1,800.

Women's Health Services focuses on patients who need hospital-level services, including anesthesia, or an abortion after 20 weeks, said Delli-Bovi. That contrasts with Planned Parenthood's health centers, which don't offer general anesthesia and typically handle uncomplicated cases. Another independent clinic, Four Women Inc. in Attleboro, offers general anesthesia but only through 20 weeks.

"There's a subset of patients who are getting care in Lolly's clinic and staying out of the hospital," said Rebecca Hart Holder, executive director of NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts. "Without it, health care costs could rise."

Women's Health Services has been operating in the red for 13 years, Delli-Bovi acknowledged, as it struggled to find funding sources to meet demands not covered by patients' copayments or

MassHealth reimbursements.

"We basically never turn anyone away," Delli-Bovi said. "If they need a late second trimester abortion, we will reduce our charges so it's covered."

The center is located in Brookline but is not one of the two clinics in that city targeted in a shooting rampage 25 years ago.

She estimates that the clinic has been losing \$170,000 a year.

"We're not set up as a non-profit," said Delli-Bovi, "but we've been utterly unprofitable since 2006."

Many other independent clinics across the country are struggling as well, according to a recently released report. Abortion Care Network, a group that supports independent providers, found that 26 independent clinics across the county closed last year. The number of independent clinics nationwide has dropped since 2012 from 510 to 344, the report found.

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Stephanie E. reached at S. @globe.com. Twitter @St

## MOVIE THEATER DIR

SHOWTIMES AND LISTINGS FOR AREA THEATERS

INFO VALID 1/07/20 ONLY

- ( ) Bargain show times are shown in parentheses
- \* Restrictions apply/No Passes
- ♿ Handicapped accessible
- ♣ Stadium Seating
- 👂 Hearing Impaired
- AD Audio Description
- CC Rear Window Captioning
- DOLBY Dolby Stereo
- DIG Digital Sound
- DSS Dolby Surround Sound
- DV Descriptive Video Service

LITTLE WOMEN (P)

UNCUT GEMS (M)

BOMBHELL (R) 1

9:30

A HIDDEN LIFE (PG)

PARASITE (R) 6:30

LEXINGTON

LEXINGTON VENU

The Boston Globe Movie Directory is a paid advertisement. Listings appear at the sole discretion of each cinema. Towns may appear out of alphabetical order so that listings will remain unbroken from column to column

# Woman sues after fall from camel



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threatened by the pregnancy; reproductive rights advocates are currently promoting a bill that would extend that exemption to pregnancies with fatal fetal anomalies.

So far, the GoFundMe page has raised nearly \$30,000, and a November fund-raiser brought in \$65,000, Delli-Bovi said. She's not sure how long that will stave off financial realities.

"My biggest concern is that if we close, there's just this whole group of people that are not going to be able to either afford or access care," said Delli-Bovi. "It's not as simple as they can go the hospital or Planned Parenthood. They can't go to Planned Parenthood if they want general anesthesia or need a much later procedure. And they can't go to the hospital because they're not going to be able to afford it."

*Stephanie Ebbert can be reached at Stephanie.Ebbert@globe.com. Follow her on Twitter @StephanieEbbert*

## MOVIE THEATER DIRECTORY

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- DOL Dolby Stereo

LITTLE WOMEN (PG) 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 9:55

UNCUT GEMS (R) 12:30, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45

BOMBSHELL (R) 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:35,

9:30

A HIDDEN LIFE (PG-13) 11:15, 3:00

PARASITE (R) 6:30, 9:00