



## Statement from staff of the Allentown Women's Center® regarding *Allentown Women's Center, Inc. v. John Dunkle, et. al.*

PENNSYLVANIA - On April 11, 2019, lawyers from the Women's Law Project and the law firm of Cozen O'Connor filed an action against three anti-abortion extremists who regularly protest outside our clinic in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. The action alleges numerous claims, including violation of the [federal Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances \(FACE\)](#) and trespass.

Our staff, clinicians, and volunteers are determined to provide affirming, innovative, and compassionate healthcare for pregnant people, members of the LGBTQ+ communities, and other people seeking professional counseling, laser hair removal, and gynecology care. It is because of this dedication that we persevere in spite of the harassment, death threats, and intimidation we face every single day. We are physically threatened, insulted, and our driveways are obstructed. Daily we are forced to endure extremists who scream racist, anti-LGBTQ+, and transphobic slurs at us. The overlap between the hate for actual and perceived members of LGBTQ+ communities, Black Women, Indigenous People, all People of Color, and every person seeking abortion care is not coincidence---these layers of hate define the anti-abortion movement.

In response and to protect ourselves, our patients, and our families, we're merely asking for 25 feet of relief from these relentless attacks.

You might note that this statement is attributed to AWC staff rather than a single representative. It's important for you to understand that we've made this decision in an attempt to protect ourselves. Here in Pennsylvania, as in other states, anti-abortion activists have been trying to inappropriately force Departments of Health and other government agencies to release identifying information about the people who provide abortion care in a variety of settings.

Whether these extremists are outside our homes or clinics, on the Internet, or inappropriately using licensing records, we will always choose to fight to protect our pregnant and non-pregnant patients of all genders and identities. Our staff and volunteers will continue to stand firmly against any form of hate that enables and encourages the kind of sustained harassment we endure every day.

- Staff at the Allentown Women's Center

For more information, contact Tara Murtha of the Women's Law Project at [tmurtha@womenslawproject.org](mailto:tmurtha@womenslawproject.org) or 215-928-5766.