



## **LEGISLATIVE ALERT**

### **MANDATED WAITING PERIODS**

### **OPPOSE [SB 1800/HB 0445](#)**

**WHAT SB 1800/HB 0445 DOES** - SB 1800 and HB 0445 would require informed consent and a subsequent 24-hour waiting period for “reflection” after a woman receives information about the abortion procedure.

#### **ACLU of Tennessee opposes SB1800/HB0445 because:**

- Government-mandated delays serve no purpose other than to make obtaining an abortion more difficult, dangerous and expensive. The harm of such restrictions is felt most by those who have the fewest resources – poor women, minors, rural women, working women without insurance or sick leave and battered women.
- Mandating delays for abortion implies that women who seek abortions are incapable of making reasoned, moral decisions regarding their health and future. In reality, almost all women, by the time they arrive at a clinic, are very clear about their reasons for wanting an abortion.
- The “waiting period” ostensibly exists so that a woman has time to “think over” her decision. It is cruel to tell a woman ending a pregnancy because she became pregnant through rape or incest that she must wait at least 24 hours to reconsider her decision.
- Many women – particularly those who live in rural areas where abortion providers are few and far between – must travel hundreds of miles to reach the nearest clinic. Forcing women to make two trips results in increased obstacles and costs. Women must arrange to take extra time off from work, potentially jeopardizing jobs; find additional child care; and scrape together money for the travel and lodging costs generated by the mandatory delay.
- Informed consent is already required for all medical procedures, including abortions. However, even much more dangerous and complicated surgeries do not have legally required waiting periods after informed consent.

**WHAT YOU CAN DO:** Call your state senator and state representative and tell them to vote NO on SB 1800/HB 0445. The easiest way to contact your legislators is to visit <http://www.capitol.tn.gov>, go to “Find My Legislator,” put in your address and click “search.”