

# ABORTION IS HEALTH CARE.

How An Act to Remove Obstacles and Expand Abortion Access (ROE Act) will build healthier, more equitable communities.

In 1973, the Supreme Court guaranteed the right to safe, legal abortion. Since then, politicians across the country have passed countless laws to shame, coerce, and punish people seeking abortion care. Now, the Trump-Pence administration has launched a full scale attack to infringe on our freedoms and take away our rights, including access to abortion.

Even in Massachusetts, people face entrenched, unjust barriers to safe, legal abortion.



income



where you live



insurance status



legal status



age



family support

## We need the ROE Act to break down these barriers to health care in Massachusetts.

The ROE Act will improve access to affordable abortion by removing unnecessary, burdensome laws that delay and deny care. This comprehensive legislation will do the following:

### Protect the health, safety, and privacy of young people.

The ROE Act eliminates the onerous requirement that forces teens to obtain permission from a parent or judge to access abortion. This process causes teens to delay care or travel outside of the state, and is opposed by the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

“When I was 16, I had to go before a judge to defend why I wasn't ready to be a parent. It felt like a huge violation of privacy.  
Jasmin,  
Dorchester

### Ensure medical decisions remain between a patient and their doctor.

The current law puts people and their families in the unimaginable situation of needing to end a pregnancy for serious medical reasons, but unable to do so, forcing people to travel across the country to access an abortion later in their pregnancy. The ROE Act expands access to abortion after 24 weeks of pregnancy in cases of fatal fetal anomalies.



### Lead the way in ensuring equitable access to abortion.



Everyone deserves the opportunity to lead a healthy life, no matter who they are or where they come from. That's why the ROE Act establishes safety net coverage for abortion care which already exists for all other pregnancy-related care for people excluded from MassHealth.

### Bring our laws into the 21st century and reduce stigma around abortion.

Did you know there's an unenforced law requiring a 24-hour waiting period for abortion in Massachusetts?

The ROE Act abolishes medically unnecessary restrictions, modernizes inflammatory and inaccurate legal definitions relative to pregnancy and abortion, and eliminates unwarranted intrusions and criminal penalties for doctors that provide abortion care. The bill also codifies reproductive freedom into state law.