



Planned Parenthood Advocates of Arizona

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## **Attorney General Appeals to Supreme Court in Effort to Mandate Outdated Medicine for Women**

**PHOENIX** — Today, Arizona Attorney General Tom Horne filed a request for the Supreme Court of the United States to review an appellate court ruling that struck down a 2012 Arizona restriction on access to medication abortion. The law Arizona is trying to enforce is opposed by both the American Medical Association (AMA) and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG).

In June of this year, a three-judge panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit unanimously concluded that there is no evidence that the 2012 restriction afforded patients any medical benefit whatsoever. In a friend of the court brief, the AMA and ACOG wrote: **“The Arizona law impedes physician discretion and contravenes medical ethics by outlawing the safest, most effective method of medical abortion and relegating women to an outdated, inferior treatment. [...] There is no question that the Arizona law confers significant risk and no benefit to women’s health. Put simply, the law is bad medicine.”** The court also found that the restriction would impose a number of burdens on women, making medication abortion, and abortion in general, far less accessible, and exposing women to additional medical risk. The appellate court judges’ reading of the restrictions and their lack of any medical basis mirrored a Tucson U.S. District Court judge’s earlier opinion.

The Ninth Circuit’s ruling temporarily enjoined the law, and sent the case back to the district court for trial. Instead of allowing this case to move forward in district court and presenting any evidence to support the law, Horne has chosen to incur new legal expenses taking the case straight to the U.S. Supreme Court.

“Attorney General Horne’s actions are yet another effort by extremist Arizona politicians to restrict access to abortion and contraception, despite being forewarned that these measures will harm women’s health, violate women’s rights to privacy and their ability to make their own health care decisions without interference,” says Bryan Howard, president and CEO, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Arizona.

Planned Parenthood Arizona is prepared to go the distance with this litigation, knowing that, for most women, this law would take away the only safe, non-surgical abortion option, and for some women it would prevent them from accessing any abortion whatsoever.

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*Planned Parenthood Advocates of Arizona is the political arm of Planned Parenthood Arizona. It is a non-partisan membership organization whose purpose is to protect and promote sexual and reproductive health and rights in Arizona by educating voters, public officials and candidates for public office.*