Protecting Access to Abortion Clinics

Abortion providers and abortion clinic staff have been the targets of bombings, arson, threats, and other acts of violence for decades. As a result of such violence, the federal Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act (FACE) was enacted in 1994 to protect abortion providers, clinics, and their patients. FACE authorizes criminal penalties and civil remedies for injuring, interfering with, obstructing, or intimidating anyone who provides or obtains reproductive health services. Some states have enacted laws similar to FACE, which specifically prohibit one or more of the following actions: trespassing; causing physical injury or obstruction; making threats; engaging in telephone harassment; or damaging property. States may also establish a bubble zone, which protects the area surrounding a person entering or exiting a facility, or a buffer zone, which protects an area of a specific size surrounding the facility.

This is a longitudinal dataset displaying laws protecting access to abortion clinics in effect from December 1, 2018 to December 1, 2019. Additional maps and tables are available by visiting www.LawAtlas.org.

### Laws Protecting Access to Abortion Clinics

Seventeen jurisdictions have a law providing protections related to a facility or healthcare provider that provides abortion services.

Jurisdictions: 17 (CA, CO, DC, KS, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MT, NV, NH, NY, NC, OR, WA, WI)

### Buffer Zone Provided

Two states have laws protecting an area of a specific size surrounding a health care facility.

Jurisdictions: 2 (MA, NH)

### Threats or Intimidation Prohibited

Seven jurisdictions have laws prohibiting the use of threats or intimidation to interfere with access to a health care facility.

Jurisdictions: 7 (CA, DC, MA, MI, NY, NC, WA)