



# Women's Law Project

## Statement on Allegheny County Executive Order Protecting Pennsylvanians from Anti-Abortion Overreach into the Commonwealth

*WLP applauds action to protect Pennsylvanians from punitive anti-abortion surveillance and pregnancy criminalization*

**PENNSYLVANIA // October 10, 2024:** Today, Allegheny County officials issued [Executive Order #2024-2 Allegheny Shield](#) to help protect Pennsylvanians from punitive anti-abortion surveillance and pregnancy criminalization.

As the Order notes, states across the country may seek to leverage their abortion bans to attempt to reach into Pennsylvania generally and Allegheny County specifically to threaten Pennsylvania providers or patients with prosecution. As representatives of a Commonwealth that protects its people from anti-abortion injuries and harm, officials must proactively shield Pennsylvanians from overzealous anti-abortion prosecutors and anti-abortion extremists reaching into the Commonwealth to control our family lives and medical decisions.

“As a resident of Allegheny County, I especially appreciate County Executive Sara Innamorato’s decision to take action to protect Pennsylvanians from the anti-abortion prosecution, harm, and surveillance,” said WLP Executive Director Susan J. Frietsche. “With our federal rights shattered by *Dobbs*, novel legal questions are proliferating regarding inter-state issues. Keeping abortion legal at the state level is not enough to protect Pennsylvanians from anti-abortion harm.”

*Executive Order 2024-2 Allegheny Shield asserts:*

*“Except as required by Pennsylvania court order, Pennsylvania law, or federal law, no County of Allegheny elected or appointed official, officer, employee, or department shall provide any information, or expend or use time, money, facilities, property, equipment, personnel, or other County resources in furtherance of any interstate investigation or proceeding that seeks to impose civil or criminal liability or professional sanction upon a person or entity for: (1) The provision, seeking or receipt of, or inquiring about reproductive health care services that are*

*legal in this Commonwealth; or (2) Any assistance given to any person or entity that relates to the provision, securing or receiving of, or any inquiry concerning reproductive health care services that are legal in this Commonwealth.”*

“Clearly, ‘leave it to the states’ is just another Orwellian anti-abortion marketing slogan, like ‘pro-life,” **said Tara Murtha, WLP Director of Impact and Engagement.** “So far, we know at least two young mothers died and countless women have suffered abortion-ban injuries. This isn’t just a legal battle, it’s a public health crisis. We urge local, county, and state officials to take action to protect Pennsylvanians from other states’ anti-abortion regimes.”

Only two abortion providers serve patients in Allegheny County. Since *Dobbs*, they have reported up to a 40% spike in serving patients fleeing anti-abortion states, depending on the legal status of surrounding states.

The Executive Order goes into effect immediately.

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