PROTECTING CARE, PROTECTING CHOICE



ABORTION ACCESS

CAPSULE TWO | **SECTION 4** | **MAY 11TH - MAY 24TH 2026**

OVERVIEW

Access to abortion and reproductive healthcare is essential to women's health, bodily autonomy, economic security, and equal participation in society. However, legal restrictions, clinic closures, financial barriers, and unequal access to reproductive healthcare continue to disproportionately affect women, especially low-income women and women of color. NOW works to protect and expand abortion access, defend reproductive freedom, and advance policies that ensure all individuals can make their own healthcare decisions free from political interference.

FOUNDATIONS

NOW has a longstanding record of advancing abortion access and reproductive justice. Through its advocacy for **Roe v. Wade** and its support of legislation such as the **Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act of 1994** – which protects patients and providers from violence, threats, and intimidation at reproductive health facilities – NOW has consistently worked to protect access to reproductive healthcare. Building on decades of advocacy against abortion restrictions, funding bans, and barriers to care, NOW continues to champion safe and legal abortion, affordable contraception, medication abortion, telemedicine for reproductive healthcare, and comprehensive reproductive health education.

ACHIEVEMENTS



1973

In 1973, NOW mobilized in support of the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision, helping establish abortion as a constitutionally protected right and marking the beginning of decades of advocacy to defend reproductive justice.



1994

In 1994, NOW helped secure passage of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act, landmark legislation that protects patients, providers, and reproductive health facilities from threats, violence, obstruction, and intimidation.

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ACHIEVEMENTS



2000

In 2000, following years of advocacy by reproductive-rights organizations including NOW, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved mifepristone (RU-486), expanding access to medication abortion in the United States.



2022-Present

Since 2022, following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, NOW has organized national advocacy campaigns opposing state abortion bans and defending medication abortion and telehealth access.

LEGISLATION

- **Women's Health Protection Act (WHPA) (H.R. 3755 / S. 1975, 118th Congress)** → Establish federal protections for abortion access and prohibit many state restrictions that interfere with the provision of abortion care.
- **Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act of 1994** → Protect patients and providers from threats, violence, harassment, and physical obstruction at reproductive health facilities.
- **EACH Act (Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance Act)** → End restrictions created by the Hyde Amendment and ensure abortion coverage regardless of income or insurance status.

TODAY

NOW continues to defend abortion access through public education and coalition building. In 2024, NOW's president spoke at a rally outside the U.S. Supreme Court, defending access to medication abortion.

In 2025, marking the third anniversary of the Dobbs decision, NOW focused on raising awareness of the far-reaching consequences of abortion restrictions, including the expansion of state bans, the increasing need to travel across state lines for care, and legislative efforts to restrict the availability of medication abortion.

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