



STATEMENT

LEGISLATIVE BIPOC CAUCUS

For Immediate Release

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BIPoC Caucus Condemns Passage of SB 8, Calls for Protection of Abortion as Essential Health Care

SALEM, OR -- The Legislative Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPoC) Caucus released the following statement after the Texas Governor signed into law Senate Bill 8 (SB 8) to ban abortions after six weeks, as well as encourages private citizens to act as bounty hunters:

"Roe vs Wade enshrined reproductive health care as a constitutionally protected right. In Oregon, we have a long history of protecting reproductive rights and removing barriers to accessing abortion because we know abortion is healthcare.

"If SB 8 remains in effect without intervention from courts, any abortion providers who remain operational are facing a crushing wave of lawsuits that they will likely be unable to litigate. This back-door ban presents harm to people facing severe restrictions on important health care protections.

"BIPoC communities are most often forced to resort to unsafe abortions due to reproductive healthcare restrictions, a symptom of institutionalized white supremacy and patriarchy. SB 8 once again disproportionately takes away our constitutional right to make decisions about our own bodies as a worst case scenario, and forces those with the resources to travel across state lines for healthcare access as a best case scenario. This bounty hunting draconian abortion ban is an assault on our fundamental right to choose, and we condemn the passage of this bill.

"It is also not a coincidence that Texas, along with many other states, are simultaneously restricting access to the ballot box, especially for BIPoC communities. We see these intersecting strategies as an affront to our democracy and will continue sounding the alarm until justice is guaranteed.

"Protecting access to abortion is about protecting people's ability to make decisions for their own and their families' well-being. We stand with all Texans and reproductive justice advocates today, and call on our fellow elected leaders across the country to condemn SB 8 and affirm the right to comprehensive, culturally-relevant reproductive health care for all."

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