Arkansas
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 30, 2018

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PRESS RELEASE

Arkansas Right to Life is pleased that the United States Supreme Court has declined to hear an appeal by Planned Parenthood of Greater Plains on the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that lifted a temporary injunction of ACT 577, the Arkansas Abortion Inducing Drug Safety Act.

Planned Parenthood in Little Rock and Fayetteville are the primary providers of medication abortion in Arkansas using the powerful drug cocktail of mifepristone and misoprostal to end pregnancies up to the eleventh week of pregnancy. In 2016, 556 medication abortions were reported to the Arkansas Department of Health.

The Abortion Inducing Drug Safety Act passed in 2015 requires that the abortion provider contract with a physician who has hospital privileges to be available to treat complications of chemical abortion that can include excessive hemorrhaging that could necessitate a blood transfusion and in rare cases could cause the C. Sordelli infection that resulted in the death of Holly Patterson in 2003 and Orianne Shevin in 2005, both from California.

The common sense safeguard of a physician to handle dangerous potentially life-threatening complications of medication abortion in a hospital should be the top priority of Planned Parenthood who claims to be the champion of reproductive healthcare for women, but instead it is access of abortion that Planned Parenthood chooses to focus on.

Act 577 does not stop Planned Parenthood or another abortion provider from performing chemical abortion in Arkansas, what it does do is ensure that women who have complications from the procedure get help from a physician in a hospital if necessary, something everyone should agree with.

Arkansas Right to Life is the state's oldest and largest pro-life organization in Arkansas and the state affiliate of the National Right to Life Committee.