



FEMINIST MAJORITY FOUNDATION

# CHOICES CAMPUS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

WORLD'S LARGEST PRO-CHOICE STUDENT NETWORK

## ADOPT-A-CLINIC CAMPAIGN

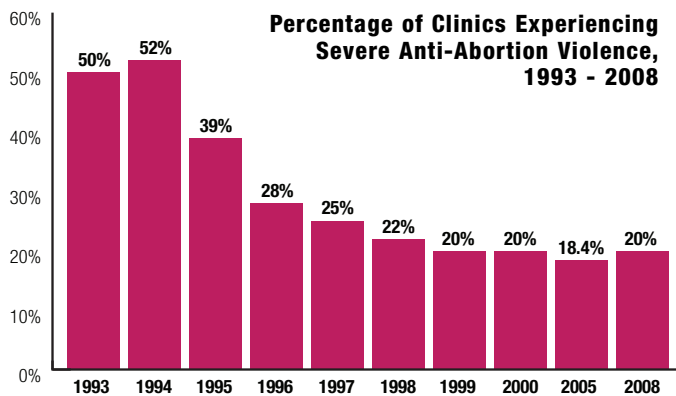
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### OVERVIEW OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN'S HEALTH CLINICS

Since the 1970s, anti-abortion extremists have targeted women's health care providers as a part of an orchestrated campaign of violence and intimidation. Many clinics have suffered arson, butyric acid attacks, and death threats, as well as demonstrations and harassment. In the 1990's anti-abortion violence turned deadly, claiming the lives of nine people.

From its peak in 1994, anti-choice violence decreased as a result of tougher federal and state laws and massive pro-choice organizing to support clinics.



Following the 2008 election, however, extremist anti-abortion leaders vowed to "return to the streets." Tragically, on May 31st, 2009, women's healthcare provider Dr. George Tiller was murdered by an extremist in Wichita, Kansas. Protests and threats against vital women's health clinics are increasing in Alabama, California, Kansas, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.



Anti-abortion violence and intimidation threatens access to abortion services as well as a host of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care services. Most women's health clinics provide a whole range of services including gynecological and prenatal care, routine cancer screening, HIV testing, menopausal treatment, infertility treatment, sexually transmitted infection screening and treatment, and adoption and family planning services.

According to the Feminist Majority Foundation's research, one in five clinics experience unacceptably high levels of anti-abortion harassment and violence. Pro-choice organizing is more important than ever to preserve access to comprehensive reproductive health care.



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### FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS AGAINST ANTI-ABORTION VIOLENCE

In 1994, national abortion rights advocates won passage of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act (FACE). FACE creates federal civil and criminal penalties for anyone who intentionally uses force or the threat of force to injure, intimidate or interfere with access to reproductive health services. However, the federal FACE Act is not always enough. California, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Washington, and Wisconsin have enacted tougher state FACE laws to provide even greater protection for reproductive health care providers.

Many states, counties and cities have passed buffer safety zone laws as well as laws prohibiting residential picketing for additional protection. Buffer safety zones create limits prohibiting anti-abortion protesters from "congregating, picketing, patrolling, demonstrating or entering" a specific area around a clinic. Colorado, Massachusetts, and Montana all have buffer safety zone laws.<sup>1</sup> Residential picketing laws help keep clinic doctors, staff, and family members safe from intrusive and harassing picketing.

<sup>1</sup> In Colorado, within 100 feet of any health care facility entrance, patients cannot be approached within 8 feet without consent for the purpose of leafleting, displaying a sign, or engaging in conversation. In Massachusetts, an 18-foot buffer zone exists around clinic entrances. Within the buffer zone, protesters must stay at least 6 feet away from clinic workers and patients. In Montana, a 36-foot buffer zone exists, within which protesters must remain 8 feet away from patients and clinic workers



For more information about the Feminist Majority Foundation's National Clinic Access Project, please visit [WWW.FEMINIST.ORG/RRIGHTS/NCAPABOUT.ASP](http://WWW.FEMINIST.ORG/RRIGHTS/NCAPABOUT.ASP)

**WITHOUT CLINICS THERE IS NO CHOICE.**  
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