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Contact:

Jeffrey Clemmons

214-244-6058 | Jeffrey.Clemmons@Senate.Texas.gov

Senator Eckhardt Condemns Passage of Abortion Bounty Hunter Law: “Zealously Cruel”

AUSTIN – Last night, the Texas Senate advanced **a new unconstitutional abortion bounty hunter law, House Bill 7**. The new law sets a **\$100,000 reward for pursuing a lawsuit** against anyone who manufactures, distributes, mails, or provides abortion medications to Texas women.

Called **“the Women and Children Protection Act,”** the new law shields pregnant women from prosecution but leaves vulnerable anyone in the country for assisting them, **rupturing the already fraught landscape for Texas women seeking to escape Texas’ cruelty to states with full healthcare access**. It seeks to constrict access to medications such as mifepristone and misoprostol, which have been used safely for decades by obstetricians and gynecologists to treat conditions ranging from ulcers to miscarriages, which can be life-threatening.

Senator Eckhardt made the following statement about HB 7:

“HB 7 doesn’t protect women. Far from it. It isolates them from their families and communities, leaving them open to yet another attack on their basic ability to care for those they love. **With dramatic cuts to federal funding for healthcare looming, this law threatens to worsen Texas’ already dire maternal mortality crisis with no concern for the painful consequences or plan to provide real care to Texans.**”

“Despite yet another devastating setback, I remain committed to fighting for a Texas where choices about our health aren’t made based on fear, control, and coercion but on people’s dignity and autonomy to choose for themselves. The work to repeal this and all the other unconstitutional anti-woman, anti-freedom laws begins in the courts but will be decided in the ballot box. **We will make sure Texans remember this betrayal.”**

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Sarah Eckhardt is the third-term Democratic State Senator representing District 14, comprising Austin and surrounding areas. She serves on the Administration, Border Security, Nominations, and Veterans Affairs committees in the 89th Legislative Session, and has previously served on the Water, Agriculture, & Rural Affairs and Local Government committees. A proud UT Law and Public Affairs alum, Senator Eckhardt was the first woman to serve as Travis County Judge from 2014-2020.