Background:
REPro Equal Access Laws (REPEAL Act) - In Virginia, we must repeal the medically unnecessary and overly burdensome regulations on abortion facilities that create barriers to access. This bill would repeal the 24-hour waiting period, ultrasound requirement, the TRAP statute and other medically-unnecessary laws. This bill would ensure that access to necessary reproductive healthcare does not depend on an individual's zip code or economic status.

Comprehensive reproductive health care, including safe, legal abortion, is a vital component of a woman's overall health and must be protected. On June 27, 2016, the United States Supreme Court issued a landmark decision in Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt, reaffirming that access to abortion is a fundamental constitutional right and clarifying that restrictions that have no legitimate medical benefit place an undue burden on a person seeking an abortion and are therefore unconstitutional.

Talking Points:
Virginia women, families, and communities benefit when a woman has access to the full range of comprehensive reproductive health care services, including abortion.

- These laws are all designed to be harmful and burdensome for people seeking an abortion, which can ultimately put a person’s health at risk when they are unable to access the healthcare that they need.

A person is fully capable of making thoughtful decisions about their family, future, and health with the advice of a health care professional they trust, without interference from politicians.

- No one can fully know the circumstances of a person facing a decision to end a pregnancy, and no one else can make that decision for her.

Politicians, not doctors, are pushing these sham restrictions on a person’s ability to access abortion.

- Leading medical experts and organizations like ACOG and the AMA strongly oppose medically unnecessary restrictions on women’s health care services.

Abortion should be treated the same as other similarly-situated medical procedures, like colonoscopies and root-canals, and even miscarriages.

- Abortion is proven to be one of the safest medical procedures in the United States, as first-trimester abortion carries less than a 0.05% risk of a complication that might require hospital care. Despite the facts, anti-choice politicians choose to put people in harm's way by not allowing them to make their own decisions about their healthcare.