

DEFENDING BODILY AUTONOMY

A YEAR OF ADVOCACY AND IMPACT

A PROUD HISTORY

Protecting the reproductive freedom and civil rights of Vermonters has always been central to our work. In 1970, three years after the ACLU of Vermont was founded, we joined a legal challenge to a law prohibiting abortions in Vermont. In 1982, we helped defeat parental notification legislation, and four years later, we won a ruling that Vermont's refusal to pay for medically necessary abortions as part of Medicaid violated the state Constitution.

When the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in 2022, it set off a chain reaction of repression, with states banning abortion and criminalizing essential care across the country. We were ready to fight back.

THE ROAD TO THE RLA

Beginning in 2018, the ACLU and our allies worked to design and pass a state constitutional amendment protecting reproductive freedom in Vermont. When *Roe* was overturned, the Reproductive Liberty Amendment (RLA) had already passed through the legislature and was on its way to the ballot.

In November 2022, voters responded to the Supreme Court's shameful decision by overwhelmingly approving the RLA, enshrining in our state constitution the strongest reproductive health care protections in the country.

PROTECTING PATIENTS & PROVIDERS

This historic victory was just the beginning of the post-*Roe* fight for reproductive freedom. Next, we turned to ensuring that everyone in Vermont can access reproductive and gender-affirming care, regardless of where they are from.

While anti-abortion politicians in states across the country severely restrict access to abortion and other essential care, we helped to craft and pass new "shield laws," to protect patients and providers from out-of-state civil or criminal liability for engaging in legally protected reproductive and gender-affirming care in Vermont.

TRANS RIGHTS IN VERMONT

The same politicians that do not want people to be able to make decisions around their own pregnancies also do not want transgender people to be able to make decisions around their own medical care. Alongside a wave of anti-abortion legislation, hundreds of anti-trans bills have been introduced in legislatures nationwide, including here in Vermont.

This year, ACLU supporters told the legislature and our elected leaders to reject any and all attempts to restrict the rights of trans people in Vermont. You can sign our petition at acluvt.org. We will never stop fighting for the freedom to fully control our bodies, lives, and futures.



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← 2022



RIGHTS *for* EVERY BODY

WE NEED YOU

As we have seen, the fight to protect our rights and liberties requires vigilance, passion, and persistence. We could not have won these battles without your support, and we need your help to face the many challenges that still await. We are grateful to you for investing in a shared vision of equality and freedom for all.

To help us sustain these efforts, please consider making a personally meaningful gift today. Together, we can win transformational change in the lives of individuals, families, and communities. You may include your gift in the enclosed envelope or visit www.acluvt.org/donate. Thank you!

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