

Federal appeals court to review Texas abortion law

January 6 2014, by Michael Kunzelman

A federal appeals court is set to review a Texas law that led to the closing of many abortion clinics in the state.

A three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans is scheduled to hear arguments Monday over a ruling declaring parts of the 2013 law unconstitutional.

Planned Parenthood sued to block two provisions. One requires doctors to have admitting privileges near where the abortion is performed. The other restricts how doctors administer abortion-inducing drugs.

Planned Parenthood says U.S. District Judge Lee Yeakel correctly ruled in October that the provisions place an unconstitutional burden on women's access to abortion.

The 5th Circuit allowed Texas to enforce the law while the decision is appealed. At least a dozen abortion clinics closed after the law took effect.

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