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[00:00:15] **Speaker 1** You can see the extended version of that interview on our Web page. Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin suspended its abortion services immediately upon the Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v Wade. The provider has patient navigators to help people find out of state options like those across the border in Illinois where abortion remains legal. We check in with Julie. You're of Planned Parenthood of Illinois who manages its Securing Access for everyone program. And thanks very much for being here.

[00:00:48] **Speaker 2** Yeah, thank you for having me on today.

[00:00:49] **Speaker 1** So what kind of influx of women seeking abortions has Planned Parenthood of Illinois seen from bordering states like Wisconsin?

[00:00:59] **Speaker 2** Thanks for asking that. Preparing for this moment for a really long time and projections have shown that we're anticipating to see up to 20 to 30000 additional abortion patients from our neighboring states annually now that Roe has been overturned and that it'll take a long time to see exact numbers and trends. It's only been a week. It feels like five years since the decision came down. But I can share that we are call volume doubled on Friday and Saturday following that decision, including from Wisconsin patients who, like you said, may have been at the clinic or an important appointment last Friday and were forced to reschedule that. And it created a lot of chaos and confusion.

[00:01:36] **Speaker 1** Indeed, now you're securing access for everyone or a safe program. Did you stand this up just for this eventuality or has it been long standing?

[00:01:47] **Speaker 2** It was for this eventuality. We've seen the writing on the walls for years now, knowing that far right conservatives have been planning to overturn abortion access in this country since the program officially started in 2019.

[00:02:01] **Speaker 1** So Planned Parenthood has patient navigators to help with out of state abortion care. How does that work exactly?

[00:02:09] **Speaker 2** So a patient navigator is kind of like our case manager, kind of like the travel agent. And their job is specifically to work with patients who face logistical barriers to access abortion care. And as you can imagine, that's going to become more complicated and more difficult as you're forced to travel further. So it depends patient by patient what sort of assistance they need. Sometimes it's just a subsidy, sometimes it's hotels, sometimes it's travel, child care, food vouchers, gas vouchers. We really try to meet the patient where they are and assist with any of those needs they might be facing.

[00:02:42] **Speaker 1** So I read that anti-abortion groups are drafting model legislation to allow private citizens to sue anyone who helps a resident of a state that bans abortion from terminating a pregnancy out of state. What's your reaction to that?

[00:03:00] **Speaker 2** I am disappointed, but not surprised. I think that they have been testing every outlet they can in order to criminalize folks for accessing that health care that they need. But, you know, we're not going to stop and we're committed to helping people access that care however we can.

[00:03:18] **Speaker 1** How is safety ensured for women who might travel from their home states for an abortion procedure?

[00:03:26] **Speaker 2** So I just want to emphasize that abortion is safe and effective, and it's certainly safer than pregnancy or childbirth is. The medication abortion pill specifically has a lower rate of adverse side effects than Tylenol does. The reality is that any safety concerns come from the very vulnerable situations people will be put in when they're facing criminalization to cross state lines for health care. But we take every step that we can in order to educate our patients about those risks and make sure that their confidentiality and privacy is protected.

[00:04:00] **Speaker 1** And so someone traveled from Wisconsin to Illinois, for example, and had their pregnancy terminated. Do they stay in place then for a period of time to be monitored or, you know, you're saying that it's extremely safe. Right. But is there kind of a period of time where they stay in place.

[00:04:21] **Speaker 2** Depending on whether they're taking a medication or in-clinic abortion? Yeah, they will be at the clinic to be monitored for any immediate health concerns associated with that. But otherwise, our centralized follow up program is always reachable by, you know, by phone or online.

[00:04:41] **Speaker 1** So lastly, is your Planned Parenthood hiring clinicians from places like Wisconsin to assist with this influx of patients?

[00:04:49] **Speaker 2** So I can't share any specifics about the operational things that we're working on. But I will say that this response to this public health crisis is going to be a marathon, not a sprint. So we are working really closely with all of our movement partners around the Midwest region to ensure that patients have access to the care they need no matter where they're coming from. And there will be there more will be more to come there.

[00:05:10] **Speaker 1** Is it accurate that there is a Planned Parenthood just across the border in South Beloit, Illinois?

[00:05:19] **Speaker 2** I'm not familiar. If there is it's not a PPO clinic or clinic as opposed to the Wisconsin border is in Waukegan.

[00:05:27] **Speaker 1** Okay. All right. Well, Julie, you all from Planned Parenthood of Illinois. Thanks very much.

[00:05:33] **Speaker 2** Thanks for having me.

[00:05:41] **Speaker 1** Thank you. This is so interesting and scary. I imagine those calls from people from Wisconsin last Friday were difficult, you know, for them and for folks trying to help them.

[00:05:55] **Speaker 2** Absolutely. It was a really emotional, chaotic day, you know, and looking like we're in a new world now.

[00:06:02] **Speaker 1** Yes. Well, thank you again. And with your permission, we'd like to check in with you again in coming weeks.

[00:06:09] **Speaker 2** Sure. Yeah, I would love that. I appreciate it. All right.

[00:06:11] **Speaker 1** Thank you. Bye. Have a good holiday weekend.

[00:06:14] **Speaker 2** You too. Thanks.