

Showdown with the Good Old Boys

“The barbaric restrictions that are being passed across the country are having real life implications on real people. I may have been one of the first who was affected by the overturning of Roe in Texas, but I’m certainly not the last. More people have been and will continue to be harmed until we do something about it. And no one should be forced to remain pregnant against their will for any reason, emergency or no emergency.”

From “The Assault on Reproductive Rights in a Post-Dobbs American,” testimony of Amanda Zurawski before the Texas Senate Judiciary Committee, April 26, 2023

In this photo Amanda Zurawski, an Austin woman who developed sepsis and nearly died after being refused an abortion when her water broke at 18 weeks, is shown facing down a Texas lawman as she heads into the courtroom to testify.

The suit in which she was lead plaintiff was brought by the Center for Reproductive Rights on behalf of 22 women who had suffered the consequences of being denied an abortion. The plaintiffs simply asked the courts to provide clear guidance to physicians about what constituted a legal emergency abortion.

Not surprisingly, the argument was unanimously rejected by the Texas Supreme Court (remember, all 9 justices are white Republicans and 7 of those 9 are men).

When the final history of Prohibition 2.0 – the crusade to outlaw abortion by stigmatizing women and criminalizing physicians – is written, this photo will be one of the iconic images of that struggle.

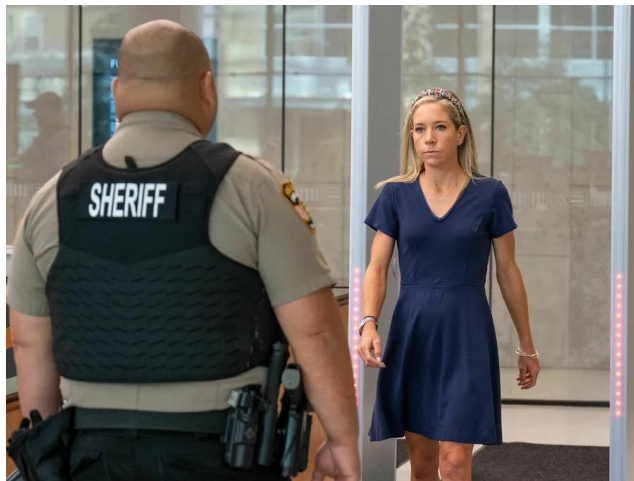


Photo by Suzanne Cordiero, via Getty Images

The war on women’s reproductive freedom in one image