

# Court won't consider free-speech challenge to abortion clinic law



WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court rejected a free-speech challenge Monday to the

year-old federal law that protects access to abortion clinics. The justices, without comment, left intact an appeals court ruling in a Virginia case that said the law does not infringe on anyone's freedom of expression while protecting people who seek or provide abortions.

Eight federal trial judges and two federal appeals courts have upheld the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act, but a federal judge in Wisconsin has declared it unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court action did not resolve the issue definitively, but was a setback for anti-abortion activists who say the law aimed at deterring violence and intimidation squelches peaceful protest as well.

In the case, the court refused to hear an appeal filed by Concerned Women for America and one of its members.

But still pending before the justices is a challenge to the clinic-access law by another

anti-abortion group, the American Life League.

"Our appeal raises the free-speech issue, but also argues that Congress lacked the authority to enact such legislation because no interstate commerce was involved," said Marion Harrison, an American Life League lawyer. "We think that's a hot-ticket issue with the Supreme Court right now."

The high court in April struck down a federal law that made it a crime to have a gun within 1,000 feet of a public school. The court said Congress' power to regulate interstate commerce didn't stretch that far.

Abortion rights advocates welcomed Monday's action.

"FACE has been a highly effective tool against abortion clinic violence," said Deborah Ellis of the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Kate Michelman of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League said the law "does not restrict free speech, but it does punish harmful conduct."

"Anti-choice protesters must

recognize that opposition to abortion is not a license to stalk, bomb, threaten, harass, intimidate or murder doctors and women," Michelman said.

President Clinton signed the law May 24, 1994. That same day, the two anti-abortion groups sued in Alexandria, Va., in an attempt to have the law invalidated.

U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema threw out both lawsuits, and the 4th Circuit court upheld her ruling last February.

Concerned Women's appeal said the challenged law "is the only federal statute designed to regulate political protests of only one selected movement, the pro-life movement, at one selection site, abortion clinics."

"It is therefore unconstitutional content- and viewpoint-based discrimination," the appeal argued.

Justice Department lawyers urged the court to reject the appeal.

They said Congress enacted the law "in response to a nationwide campaign of violent and obstructive interference with access to reproductive health services."

## Tennis & Racquetball Restring Specials

**\$7.50**  
Tournament Nylon

Reg. \$15.00 15g, 16g

**\$9.95**  
Synthetic Gut

Reg. \$20.00 15g, 16g



**COURTSIDE TENNIS & APPAREL**  
1122 West 7th • 342-7208  
Open 7 days a week

Expires 6-29-95

# SAVE \$\$\$\$ ON TEXTBOOKS!

- One block from campus.
- Same low prices.
- Expanded floor space.

Bring Your Textbook Information

- ✓ Author
- ✓ Title
- ✓ Edition

We'll help you save \$\$\$

Sell some of last year's textbooks and help pay for this term's books

## Smith Family Bookstore

One block from campus - next to 7-Eleven  
768 East 13th • (503) 345-1651  
Eugene, Oregon 97401



Be cool... Make a better world.  
**RECYCLE!**

**ASUO  
LEGAL  
SERVICES**

## FREE LEGAL SERVICES

- ◆ Legal Services handles a wide range of legal problems from divorces to landlord tenant disputes.
- ◆ There is never a consultation or settlement fee.
- ◆ Legal Services staff members are experienced, qualified professionals.
- ◆ Legal Services are FREE to current fee-paying U of O students.

ALSO: The Office of Student Advocacy offers non-legal services including, but not limited to **ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATION DISPUTES.**

Contact Legal Services, EMU, Room 334  
(Third floor above the Fish Bowl).

Or call 346-4273 to set up an appointment.

LONELINESS • DEPRESSION • ACADEMIC PROBLEMS • SUICIDE

## U of O CRISIS CENTER

We are trained crisis counselors who are available 7 days a week to LISTEN and HELP You:

- ☞ understand your feelings
- ☞ reduce confusion
- ☞ make important decisions
- ☞ make changes



**CALL US AT  
346-4488**



5pm-8am Monday-Friday  
24 hours weekends

LONELINESS • DEPRESSION • ACADEMIC PROBLEMS • SUICIDE

EATING DISORDERS • ANXIETY • GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL ISSUES

EATING DISORDERS • ANXIETY • GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL ISSUES