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### **Religious Institute Celebrates Supreme Court's Decision on Abortion Access**

June 27, 2016— This morning, the United States Supreme Court issued a 5-3 decision in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*, ruling that the restrictions in Texas' HB2 law place an undue burden on abortion access and violate the U.S. Constitution.

Commenting on the decision, Religious Institute president Marie Alford-Harkey said, "Our faith traditions teach us that wrestling with moral decisions is the responsibility of every individual and that every individual has dignity and sacred worth. All people deserve the right and the ability to apply the principles of their own faith and conscience to their moral decisions, without legal restrictions. By striking down needless barriers to access, this decision affirms that all people deserve compassion, respect, and dignity in making their own health decisions—no matter where they live.

"Grounded in our faith, we celebrate the Court's decision, and we vow to continue to fight for full, accessible healthcare—including access to abortion care—for all people. We are especially grateful for the thousands of people of faith and religious leaders who boldly spoke out for abortion access throughout this case. As we face hundreds of medically unnecessary laws restricting access to abortion care throughout the country, this decision makes clear that the advocacy of people of faith in the movement to end reproductive oppression must continue."

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The Religious Institute ([www.religiousinstitute.org](http://www.religiousinstitute.org)), based in Westport, CT, is a nonprofit, multifaith organization dedicated to advocating for sexual health, education and justice in faith communities and society. More than 8,500 clergy, seminary presidents and deans, religious scholars and other religious leaders representing more than 50 faith traditions are part of the Religious Institute's national religious leaders network.