

Fort Bend County clergy 'deeply disappointed' by Supreme Court's recent abortion action

BY HALEY MORRISON

hmorrison@fbherald.com

The U.S. Supreme Court has temporarily blocked a Texas law restricting abortion practices.

The restrictions, which were originally upheld by a lower court, would require clinics to have hospital-like facilities and participating physicians would have to have admitting privileges at local hospitals.

Local pastors were saddened by the court's decision.

Grace Community Bible Church Pastor

Dave Hodges stated, "I think abortion is evil and am disappointed that the Supreme Court is butting in to override Texas legislative decisions."

Due to earlier restrictions, over half of the clinics in the state have already been forced to close.

These restrictions would have gone into effect Wednesday and would have required 10 of the remaining 19 abortion clinics in Texas to close.

"I am deeply disappointed by the Supreme Court's decision," said St. Paul's Lutheran Church Pastor Claude Villemaire.

Medical groups such as the Texas Medical Association and the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists oppose the requirements, some of which dictate the size of closets and the paint on the wall, thus having little to do with patient health and safety.

The First Circuit Court of Appeals, which upheld the Texas law, treated the opinions of such medical groups as irrelevant when it came to the question of whether the state could rely on health-related justifications as reasons for closing the clinic.

The court voted 5-4 to stay Texas from en-

forcing these restrictions.

The hold put on the restrictions indicates that the court will likely revisit the issue, possibly making it a topic in the 2016 presidential election.

In the first quarter of 2015, more than 330 abortion restrictions were introduced in 43 states, seriously blocking access in Southern states.

New polling shows that most women identify as pro-choice and that seven in 10 Americans want a woman who has decided to have an abortion to have easier access to one.