

Written by Kathy
Monday, 26 June 2017 00:11



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[OHIO'S LEADER IN BLACK DIGITAL NEWS](#)

CLEVELAND URBAN NEWS.COM, CLEVELAND, Ohio-Ohio11th Congressional District Congresswoman Marcia L. Fudge is rallying for Preterm Cleveland Ohio after its key abortion clinic on Shaker Heights Boulevard, the only one in both Cleveland and Cuyahoga County, was recently vandalized and allegations of outside intimidation of abortion clinic patients have again surfaced, this controversy taking center stage as the Republican controlled Ohio state legislature revisits the controversial "Heartbeat Bill." (Editor's note: State Rep. Christina Hagan, an Alliance Republican and the bill's primary sponsor, reintroduced the bill two weeks ago).

Congresswoman Fudge denounces vandalism at abortion clinic in Shaker Heights as the Heartbeat Bill is

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HB 493, had it not been vetoed by Gov John Kasich in 2016, would have made abortion illegal in Ohio as soon as a fetal heartbeat is detected.

It is also a politically volatile bill, given that Ohio remains a pivotal state for presidential elections, no Democrat since John F. Kennedy winning the White House without first winning Ohio, and no Republican of remembrance.

"I am appalled by vandalism and patient intimidation and harassment at Preterm Ohio," said Fudge of the attack on the Preterm abortion clinic. "Every woman deserves the right to make decisions that are best for her and her family and Preterm provides the much needed care to women of Northeast Ohio and serves as an advocate for women across our state and nation."

Preterm Ohio, in Cleveland, which is the largest abortion clinic in Ohio and is led by Chrissy France, who was appointed to her post last year and is the organization's first ever executive director, issued a statement saying some 10 windows had been broken at its building over a three-month period by a vandal that has returned repeatedly but that the organization "won't back down."

The vandal is caught on camera as late as Sunday, June 21, smashing a window.

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Abortion advocates say the legislative intrusion via the Heartbeat Bill and the constitutional right for women to seek abortions free from harassment at Preterm or elsewhere go hand-in-hand.

Last December Kasich, a Republican governor and 2016 unsuccessful candidate for the Republican nomination for president, vetoed House Bill 493, better known as the Heartbeat Bill, proposed legislation, introduced repeatedly, and fueled by President Trump's election win last November over Hillary Clinton, the pro-choice Democratic nominee.

Women's rights groups and most Democratic leaders across the nation vehemently oppose the bill in any form, and all like it, including bill introduced in Republican led state legislatures nationwide, supporters hoping that this time, in Ohio, the fourth attempt at getting the bill to become state law, is the charm.

Kasich said he vetoed the Heartbeat Bill last year because it is unconstitutional, and would likely be overturned by a higher court, a view supported by constitutional scholars.

A Warrensville Heights Democrat and licensed attorney, Fudge, though a federal legislator, is against the Heartbeat Bill and any inkling of Ohio's state legislature trampling on Roe v. Wade, the 1973 landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision that made abortion legal in the United States.

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Congresswoman Fudge, who is Black and one of two Blacks in congress from Ohio, along with Congresswoman Joyce Beatty of Columbus, does not back down easily either on public policy matters that she holds dear.

Her largely Black congressional district includes parts of Cleveland and several of its eastern suburbs

The federal lawmaker said that Preterm Ohio is crucial to protecting abortion rights, and thus, women's rights.

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Ohio's most read Black digital newspaper and Black blog with some 4.5 million views on Google Plus alone.Tel: (216) 659-0473 and Email: editor@clevelandurbannews.com.
Kathy Wray Coleman, editor-in-chief, and who trained for 17 years at the Call and Post Newspaper in Cleveland, Ohio. We interviewed former president Barack Obama one-on-one when he was campaigning for president. As to the Obama interview, [CLICK HERE TO READ THE ENTIRE ARTICLE AT CLEVELAND URBAN NEWS.COM,](http://www.clevelandurbannews.com)

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