

# South Carolina Man Who Blocked Abortion Clinic Entrance Found Guilty of Violating FACE Act



By [KATHERINE HAMILTON](#) 12 Mar 2024

A South Carolina man was found guilty on Monday of violating the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances ([FACE](#)) Act after blocking the entrance to an abortion clinic in November of 2022.

Steven Clark Lefemine, 68, is facing a maximum penalty of six months in federal prison, a fine of up to \$10,000, and one year of supervision to follow the term of imprisonment, [according](#) to the Department of Justice (DOJ). The FACE Act was passed in 1994 and “[prohibits](#) threats of force, obstruction and property damage intended to interfere with reproductive health care services.”

Lefemine, whom *The State* [described](#) as a “Bible-quoting, hymn-singing, Constitution-citing anti-abortion activist,” sat in front of the entrance to Planned Parenthood South Atlantic in Columbia and blocked access to the facility on Nov. 15, 2022. Employees of the abortion clinic filmed the incident and said they are familiar with Lefemine because he protests often at the clinic, according to the DOJ.

Lefemine acted as his own attorney during his trial, and he admitted in his testimony to blocking the doors to the clinic to prevent abortions. His guilty verdict is the first successful conviction of its kind in the state, [according](#) to *The Post and Courier*.

“We will protect South Carolinians’ right to peacefully protest, but we will also protect their right to access healthcare facilities,” [said](#) Adair F. Boroughs, U.S. Attorney for the District of South Carolina.

“Lefemine’s protest became unlawful when he physically prevented patients from entering Planned Parenthood.”

Abortion wars: It was man’s versus God’s law in SC on Monday, and man’s law carried the day. Bible quotes didn’t help Columbia anti-abortion protester. Federal judge found him guilty

<https://thestate.com/news/local/crime/article286527360.html?deviceId=010637B9-A754-4498-8DBA-8FE7D52814B3&tempKey=value...>



**John Monk**

@jmonkatthestate



[8:39 AM · Mar 12, 2024](#) 4,775 Views

Lefemine emphasized during the trial that the evidence presented shows he was not a threat to the clinic, especially because he informed police before he showed up to protest at the clinic. He also noted that he left with officers peacefully when he was arrested, according to *The State*.

United States District Judge Joseph A. Anderson, who presided over the case, said he respected Lefemine’s “deeply held beliefs” and that he had acted “in accordance with an age-old tradition in this country that sometimes has resulted in changes in the law,” the report states.

“Anderson was referring to civil disobedience, whereby activists such as Martin Luther King Jr. have deliberately disobeyed laws they believed were immoral and suffered fines or jail to bring attention to their causes,” according to the report.

The FBI worked with the U.S. Attorney's Office to bring a federal charge against Lefemine after Columbia police arrested him for trespassing.

**[RELATED: Father of 11, 73-Year-Old Man Among Pro-Life Activists Facing up to 11 Years in Prison](#)**

“Several FBI agents were in the courtroom Monday but did not testify,” the report states.

Lefemine was found guilty earlier this year on the trespassing charge and paid a \$465 fine. He was then indicted by a federal grand jury in February of 2023 on the FACE Act charge related to the clinic protest.

After the Monday trial, Lefemine said: “As Christians, we are not necessarily called to win all the time, we are called to be a witness.”

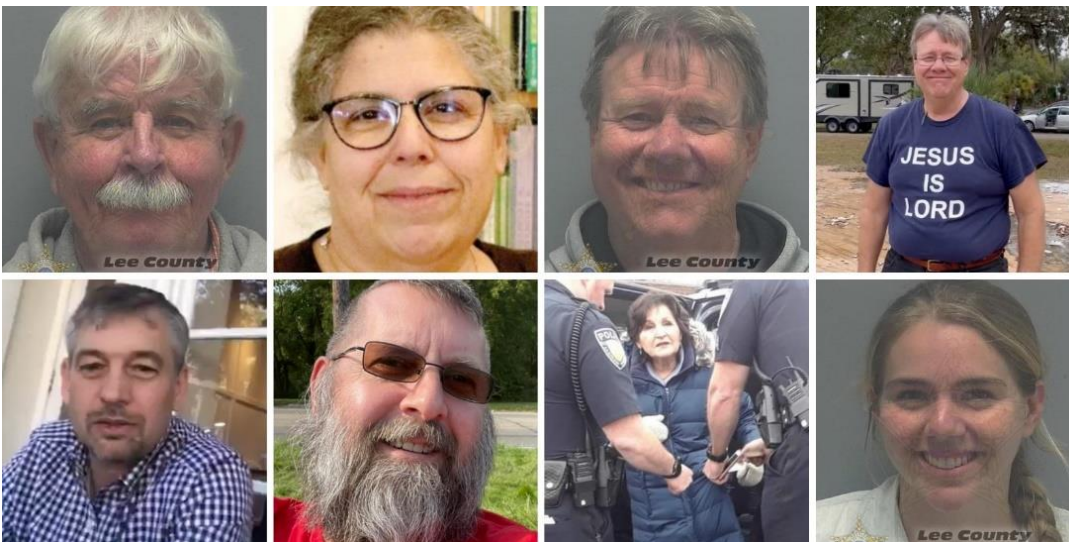
Lefemine is the latest of [dozens of pro-life activists](#) to face or be found guilty on federal charges related to abortion clinic protests and pro-life activism.

**[RELATED: Explainer: DOJ Uses KKK-Era Charge to Extend Prison Time for Pro-Life Activists](#)**



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11 pro-life activists have been indicted by Biden's DOJ for protesting outside an abortion clinic in Tennessee. Meet the Christian memaws and papaws charged as "co-conspirators" now facing up to 11 years in federal prison for a peaceful "blockade" demonstration



11:45 AM · Oct 6, 2022



**Greg Price**

@greg\_price11

**BREAKING:** Pro-life activist Mark Houck was just found NOT GUILTY on federal FACE Act charges brought on him by Biden's DOJ for pushing a Planned Parenthood escort who threatened his son while he was sidewalk counseling. Merrick Garland and Kristen Clarke can hold this L.



3:02 PM · Jan 30, 2023 **917.9K** Views



**Greg Price**

@greg\_price11

**BREAKING:** Pro life activists Jean Marshall (73) and Joan Bell (74) were just convicted for blocking the entrance to an abortion clinic and now face 11 years in prison. It's good to see the Biden DOJ removing these hardened criminals from our streets.



[12:44 PM · Sep 18, 2023](#) **2.5M** Views



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56-year-old cancer survivor Dennis Earl Green, the director of Life and Liberty Ministries, is accused of engaging in "a conspiracy" to prevent a clinic from aborting babies by being part of a peaceful protest that blocked access to a Tennessee abortion facility.



[2:52 PM · Oct 6, 2022](#)

[Mia Cathell](#)  
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Biden's DOJ is coming after 87-year-old Eva Edl, a pro-life icon arrested 40+ times for blockading abortion clinics and a survivor of a communist concentration camp.



3:02 PM · Oct 6, 2022

The FACE Act was written to equally protect abortion clinics, pro-life pregnancy resource centers, and churches. However, since the Supreme Court’s [Dobbs decision](#), the DOJ has notably charged more pro-life activists under the FACE Act than pro-abortion activists, even though FBI Director Christopher Wray [admitted](#) in November 2022 that approximately 70 percent of abortion-related threats of violence in the United States since the *Dobbs* decision have been against pro-life groups.

In December 2022, Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta also [admitted](#) in remarks at the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division’s 65th Anniversary that the end of *Roe v. Wade* dialed up “the urgency” of the DOJ’s work, including the “enforcement of the FACE Act, to ensure continued lawful access to reproductive services.”



[Andy Ngô](#)   
[@MrAndyNgo](#)

Washington, DC: The Capitol Hill Pregnancy Center was attacked by a cell of the Jane's Revenge [#antifa](#) group on June 3. Red paint was dumped all over the front door and a message of the group was written on the building. <https://fox5dc.com/news/pregnancy-center-vandalized-near-captiol-hill>



missrobin  
@realmissrobin



We need more of this. Fascists and Christian Nationalists should not feel safe in the United States.

**Mary Margaret Olohan** @MaryMargOlohan · 1h

Here at Capitol Hill Crisis Pregnancy Center in DC where someone dumped red paint on the door, egged the windows, and wrote "Jane Says Revenge." The director of the pro-life clinic told me the vandalism makes her incredibly "sad" in light of the work they do every day.

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7:44 PM · Jun 7, 2022

**Andy Ngô** PM

[@MrAndyNgo](#)

Asheville, N.C.: The Mountain Area Pregnancy Services office was attacked & smashed up on June 7. A threat/slogan from #antifa group Jane's Revenge was written on the building. Blood was also found, possibly from a vandal who was injured smashing the glass.

<https://wlos.com/news/local/investigation-underway-after-vandals-target-a-permanency-services-clinic>





7:50 PM · Jun 7, 2022

Out of [dozens](#) of attacks on pregnancy centers since the [Dobbs leak](#), only a handful of pro-abortion activists have been arrested, including in [Florida](#), [New York](#), and [Ohio](#).

When questioned by Republicans in March of 2023 about the apparent enforcement discrepancy, Merrick Garland [claimed](#) more pro-life activists have been prosecuted because they commit crimes “during the daylight,” while pro-abortion activists tend to strike at night.

[Greg Price](#)

[@greg\\_price11](#)

Merrick Garland says that the DOJ has prosecuted more pro-lifers for peaceful protests at abortion clinics than domestic terrorists firebombing pregnancy resource centers because the pro-lifers are doing it during the day and the centers are being bombed at night.

VIDEO ADDRESS: <https://twitter.com/i/status/1630969810824593413>

[11:34 AM · Mar 1, 2023](#) **271.3K** Views

Republicans [renewed their call](#) to repeal the FACE Act in February after six pro-life activists were [found guilty](#) for “conspiracy against rights” and violating the FACE Act in relation to a peaceful protest outside of a Tennessee abortion facility in 2021. Those activists face up to 11 years in prison. Rep. Chip Roy (R-TX) [introduced](#) the FACE Act Repeal Act in September of 2023, after eight other pro-life activists, [who are still in jail](#), were [found guilty](#) of violating the FACE Act and conspiracy against rights for their role in an abortion clinic blockade that took place in Washington, DC, in October 2020. They could also face up to 11 years in prison.



“Free Americans should never live in fear of their government targeting them because of their beliefs. Yet, Biden’s Department of Justice has brazenly weaponized the FACE Act against normal, everyday Americans across the political spectrum, simply because they are pro-life,” Roy [said](#) in a statement at the time. “Our Constitution separates power between the federal government and the states for a reason, and we ignore that safeguard at our own peril. The FACE Act is an unconstitutional federal takeover of state police powers; it must be repealed.”

If reelected, Former President Donald Trump [pledged](#) to create a task force to review and potentially pardon or commute the sentences of every “political prisoner who’s been unjustly persecuted by the Biden administration.”

*Katherine Hamilton is a political reporter for Breitbart News. You can follow her on X [@thekat\\_hamilton](#).*