



January 2016

## Trapped

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### Recommended Citation

Blizek, William L. (2016) "Trapped," *Journal of Religion & Film*: Vol. 20: Iss. 2, Article 13.  
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/jrf/vol20/iss2/13>

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### Abstract

This is a film review of *Trapped* (2016) directed by Dawn Porter.

### Author Notes

William Blizek is the Founding Editor of the Journal of Religion and Film, and is Professor of Philosophy and Religion at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He is also the editor of the Continuum Companion to Religion and Film (2009).



*Trapped*  
(2016)

Directed by Dawn Porter

This documentary focuses on the experiences of three abortion service providers in Alabama, as they deal with the many "TRAP" laws (Targeted Regulations of Abortion Providers) that have been enacted and proposed. TRAP laws are those regulations that specifically target abortion providers and, although they are "justified" by their proponents as ensuring the health and safety of women seeking an abortion, they are in fact designed to make abortion services impossible.

Roe v. Wade makes abortion legal in the United States of America. The Supreme Court gave this ruling in 1973. The Supreme Court, in a later ruling, did say that individual states could enact legislation that contributed to the health and safety of women seeking an abortion as long as it did not entail an undue burden on those seeking an abortion. TRAP laws use this permission to pass laws that do not in fact benefit the health or safety of women seeking abortions, but do in fact

place an onerous burden on many of the women seeking abortion services. The issue of undue burden is now under consideration by the Court and it should be resolved this coming June 2016.

*Trapped* exposes the cruelty of the anti-abortion protestors, cruelty towards the most vulnerable of women. It exposes the pretense that TRAP laws are for the health and safety of women. It exposes the fact that some of the protestors are anti-Court and anti-democracy. It exposes a religious fanaticism that is beyond reason. And, finally, the documentary exposes a group of people who would gladly overthrow our democratic republic in favor of a Christian caliphate.