



## **Statement by Georgia Women (And Those Who Stand With Us) on the Draft Supreme Court Decision to Overturn *Roe v. Wade***

Justice Alito forcefully cites English jurist, Sir Matthew Hale in the leaked draft of the majority opinion, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. Hale, born in 1699, was known for establishing the marital rape exemption, a now disproven and abandoned legal notion whereby a married woman could not allege that she was raped by her husband. Considered an extremist of his time, Hale also openly spoke against women learning or having a voice, and sentenced several women to death labeling them as "witches."

Twenty-first century women do not want an 18<sup>th</sup> century misogynist deciding their fate. What today's women want is the freedom and dignity to determine who to sleep with, who to marry, what to read, how to worship, whether or not to use contraception, and whether or not to bear children – without government interference.

Extreme conservatives are vilifying the leaker and screaming about the Supreme Court Justices' right to privacy, while the Court abolishes the same right of privacy for women. They ignore the fact that at least three judges perjured themselves in recent Congressional Hearings, saying that they would not overturn women's privacy rights as "Roe is established law."

These actions are merely a deflection from radical conservatives' agenda to strip Americans of their freedoms – specifically, women of their right to bodily autonomy.

This decision is the culmination of 49 years of plotting by a minority to control women and repeal their rights. They tirelessly spread dangerous, fearmongering lies about abortion procedures, passed laws limiting abortion access, and pack all levels of our courts with partisan judges, setting the stage for this final blow, all under the pretense of righteousness.

This dangerous decision focuses exclusively on women. Under the Supreme Court's logic in this opinion, state legislatures could dictate that women carry every pregnancy to term, despite the danger to the mother, the fetus, or as a result of rape or incest. The ruling also demonstrates expansive governmental reach on private decisions which will disproportionately affect indigent and low-income women.

Georgia Women (And Those Who Stand With Us) believes a woman's body is her own, NOT the government's. We believe that control over our bodies is ours and ours alone. What will come next? If we don't stand up, we fear that the rights guaranteed under the 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup> Amendments will be blithely stripped away.

We therefore encourage you to stand with us. Stand up for the rights of all, guaranteed under the Constitution of the United States. Stand up for our representative democracy. Stand up for the egalitarian experiment that is the United States of America.

**Elections have consequences. Vote!**