



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

On June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court published its decision on *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. In a 5-4 opinion, Justice Samuel Alito said that the 1973 *Roe* ruling and repeated subsequent high court decisions reaffirming *Roe* "must be overruled" because they were "egregiously wrong," the arguments are "exceptionally weak" and so "damaging" that they amounted to "an abuse of judicial authority." Chief Justice John Roberts concurred in the *Dobbs* judgment which would have only limited the decision to upholding the Mississippi law at issue in the case, which banned abortions after 15 weeks.

The ruling demonstrates expansive governmental overreach on private decisions. The decision of the extreme ideological conservative justices have deemed that from the very moment of fertilization, a woman has no rights. Those rights now belong to the state. As a result, young women today have fewer rights than their mothers and grandmothers. Alito's comments confer the rights of states to ban abortions for any reason. Some states' trigger laws have already gone into effect which can force a woman or girl to bring her pregnancy to term even if her life is at risk, the fetus's life is at risk or if the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest. Some states have vigilante laws and others will be charging women and/or providers with murder. Numerous medical, nursing, and hospital associations have condemned the decision which will disproportionately affect indigent and low-income women.

Despite Justice Alito writing that the ruling applies only to abortion, Justice Thomas wrote that the legal rationale for the decision could be applied to overturn other major cases, including those that legalized same sex marriage, barred the criminalization of consensual homosexual conduct, and protected the rights of married people to have access to contraception. Which right will be next? Numerous states have already disenfranchised voters with voter suppression laws. And now, the Court has decided to take up the Independent State Legislature (ISL) theory in the next session. ISL argues that state legislatures have almost absolute power to set federal election rules and congressional maps, free from interference from other parts of the state government such as state courts and governors. This could set up allowing state electors to choose the 2024 Presidential candidate regardless of the outcome of the vote.

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. We must make this the focal point of the 2022 elections. We are committed to electing candidates whose views most closely align with ours. 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 also be blithely stripped away.

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.