



Wisconsin Religious Coalition *for* Reproductive Choice

July 6, 2022

We, the undersigned Wisconsin faith leaders and clergy, condemn the recent decision of the United States Supreme Court in striking down the landmark and precedent setting ruling of *Roe v. Wade*. Fifty years ago, we believed that we had clarified and determined the sacred privilege of bodily autonomy. Now, that right has been taken away from all Americans. This is a tragic occasion for us all.

As abhorrent as is this ruling, the rationale given is equally disturbing, as it is based on dismissing fifty years of precedent hinging on an implied right to privacy present in our Constitution. This abrogation of a right we have all come to count upon is frightening in its implications, as it signals further erosions or even excisions of other rights, including the right to contraception, same-sex marriage, interracial marriage, and more.

As faith leaders, we are also distressed that this ruling seeks to enshrine into law one narrow religious viewpoint, thereby violating the Constitution's explicit protection for freedom of religion. The free exercise of religion – including the right not to observe any religion – means that no one religious concept can control law and life for those of a different religious belief.

People of faith believe many different things about the beginnings of human life. No one religious viewpoint should decide American law, especially as personal a decision as this. The difficult decision to terminate a pregnancy is for many, the result of consulting one's conscience and one's closest advisors, and especially because such a decision relates to personal bodily autonomy, should not be subject to someone else's restrictive religious or philosophical viewpoint.

Citizens of Wisconsin: Know that people of faith stand with patients, their physicians, and their loved ones. We know that when abortion care is not available, women die. And we also know that prohibitions on abortion will not curtail the number of abortions taking place: they will simply make abortions more dangerous and life-threatening.

Accordingly, we, the undersigned faith leaders of many religious denominations, call upon our elected officials to represent the majority of Wisconsinites who support abortion rights, to immediately pass legislation to protect access to abortions and the associated care from abortion procedures. We call upon the citizens of Wisconsin who support abortion rights to petition their legislative leaders to pass laws to support a person's right to choose reproductive freedom. And we pray that the governor will support and sign these protections into law.

Signed, (congregations/organizations for identification purposes only)
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