A National Connection for Self-Advocates

Green Mountain Self-Advocates and SARTAC www.selfadvocacyinfo.org
Today We Will Talk About Roe v. Wade

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Today’s Agenda

1. Words to know
2. What is Roe v. Wade?
3. Other Abortion Decisions made by the United States Supreme Court
4. What does it mean if the Supreme Court overturns this decision?
5. How this will change the way we get healthcare
6. Important Services from Planned Parenthood and other centers
7. Questions
The goal of this session is to present the facts. Our groups need the facts in plain language.

This is NOT a session for a political debate.

We are committed to self-advocates understanding what is going on in our country.
**Words to Know**

**Abortion**
- A person has a medical procedure to end a pregnancy.
- A person takes medicine to end a pregnancy.

**Supreme Court**

The Supreme Court is the highest court in the country. The Supreme Court has the final say on how laws work. Its decisions are the law of the land. All states and other must follow the supreme courts decisions.
1973: Roe v. Wade

- In 1973, the Supreme Court made a decision called Roe v. Wade.
- It made abortion legal in every state in the United States.
- Before this lawsuit, abortion was illegal in most states.
In 1992, the Supreme Court made a decision called Planned Parenthood v. Casey.

The Supreme Court decided to keep abortion legal.

But the Supreme Court also allowed states to make it harder to get an abortion.

For example, some states have laws that make a person:

- wait to get an abortion
- get permission from their parents
- get unnecessary tests
Last year, Texas passed a Bill that banned abortions after 6 weeks of pregnancy.

The Supreme Court of the United States refused to stop the law.

Getting abortion care in Texas has since become almost impossible.
Today in the Supreme Court of the United States

There is a case called… Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization

- In 2018, Mississippi passed a law. It banned abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy.
- There is only 1 abortion health center in Mississippi. It is called Jackson Women's Health Organization.
- The health center filed a lawsuit. It is asking the Supreme Court to get rid of the Mississippi law.
- The US Supreme Court will make a decision in June or July.
The US Supreme Court Has 9 Members. They are called Justices. They have great power to decide which laws are okay and which are not.

Sotomayor  Kagan  Breyer

3 judges support abortion rights.

Roberts  Kavanaugh  Barrett  Gorsuch  Alito  Thomas

6 judges do not have a history of supporting abortion rights.
The Supreme Court Takes a Long Time to Make a Decision

- The final decision is in writing.
- They do not talk to the public when working on a decision.
- They talk behind closed doors.
- Everything is keep secret

On May 2, there was a leak. Somebody gave a rough draft of the decision to a newspaper
• For 50 years the Supreme Court said abortion is legal in ALL of the states.

• The rough draft said the Supreme Court will make a big change. They might allow each state to make their own decision. Each state will decide to make abortion legal or not.

• Now remember, this is NOT final yet.

• The Supreme Court will make a final decision in June or July.

• Until then abortion is legal across the country.
What does it mean if the US Supreme Court overturns this decision?

- For 50 years the Supreme Court said abortion is legal in ALL of the states.
- The new judges want to overturn or go against what has already been decided. The new judges disagree with what has been the law of the land for 50 years.
- If the Court overturns Roe v. Wade, 26 states are certain or likely to immediately ban abortion.

Source: Turn Back by Hasan from NounProject.com
This map was created in 2021. State legislatures continue to pass abortion restrictions and bans at unprecedented rates.

26 States Likely to Ban Abortion
How Do We Know 26 States Could Ban or Restrict?

Roe v Wade says abortion is legal.
All states must follow this rule.
If Roe v. Wade goes away - states are free to make their own laws.
22 states already have laws or constitutional amendments in place ready to go to ban abortion.

Source: Guttmacher Institute

Alabama
Arizona
Arkansas
Georgia
Idaho
Iowa
Kentucky
Louisiana
Michigan
Mississippi
Missouri
North Dakota
Ohio
Oklahoma
South Dakota
Tennessee
Texas
Utah
West Virginia
Wisconsin
Wyoming
How Do We Know 26 States Could Ban or Restrict?

And 4 more states have politicians who want to ban abortion. They will likely try to pass laws as soon as possible.

- Florida
- Indiana
- Montana
- Nebraska

Source: Guttmacher Institute
Texas is a Preview

Texas banned almost all abortion in September. Since then, 1,400 Texans are traveling to other states each month to get abortion care.

Source: Adapted from Texas Policy Evaluation Project at the University of Texas at Austin Population Research Center.
Planned Parenthood Services

- Annual check-ups
- Cancer screenings
- Birth control
- STI testing and treatment
- Pregnancy testing
- Treatment when you are sick
  
  For example: s (ex: pelvic pain, bleeding, UTI, erectile dysfunction)
Planned Parenthood Services

- Some regular health care
- Counseling
- Immunizations
- Emergency Contraception
- Gender affirming care, including hormone therapy
- Medication to prevent HIV
- Abortion (medication and in-clinic)
- Miscarriage care
How to make an appointment at Planned Parenthood:

Go to the website:  
[www.plannedparenthood.org](http://www.plannedparenthood.org)

Call 1-800-230-7526

They provide telehealth
You can get health care appointments by phone or video