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Demo Memo

The Supreme Court Poised to Rule: No Woman May Have Control of Her Own Body

The Leaked Alito Draft will overturn Roe v. Wade

In the 1973 Roe v. Wade case, the Supreme Court ruled that the 14th Amendment to the Constitution provides a “right to privacy” that protects a woman’s right to choose to have an abortion. Later the Court established the right to abortion up to the point of fetal viability, after which it depends on circumstances like the health of the mother. The recent draft opinion from Justice Alito and endorsed by the conservative majority of justices, says there is no right to privacy and would let states establish abortion bans.

Why is it important?

Americans oppose overturning Roe v. Wade by a 2 to 1 margin*. No one should be forced to have an unwanted pregnancy. Women won the right to control their bodies in 1973. We cannot go back to women being forced to endure pregnancies or dying from illegal, unsafe procedures. Women who are victims of rape, or even underage girls could be forced to endure pregnancy and birth. If the court rules the right to privacy is nonexistent in the 14th amendment, states could next outlaw same-sex marriage or even inter-racial marriage.

What can we do?

In Washington State, the right to abortion is protected by law. We passed Initiative 120 in 1991. Now is the time to codify this right nationally into U.S. law. This year **vote for Senators and a Representative who support the right to privacy**, including the right to choose abortion.

* Nov. 7-10, 2021 Washington Post – ABC News Poll

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