



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Overturing *Roe* a Deadly Disaster

“Don’t think for a second this is where they stop. Pay attention, America.
They’re coming after you next.”

—Governor Gavin Newsom

FRESNO—The Fresno County Democratic Party furiously condemns the recently uncovered draft decision from conservative Supreme Court justices that would overturn the landmark *Roe v Wade* decision.

If finalized, this ruling would destroy the legal protection to pursue an abortion as a fundamental right to bodily privacy, leading to an instant 50-year snapback in half of the nation’s states. This outcome would be a national disaster of historic proportions albeit the culmination of decades of Republican strategy. The tragedy our nation faces cannot be overstated.

Making abortion illegal will kill women. History has shown us the trail of death arising from eras of unsafe extralegal abortions due to complications of back-alley operations and drugs. The reasons a woman decides to end a pregnancy are often stronger than any fear of the law. That the pain, damage and risks of pregnancy would be inflicted on unwilling victims when a scientific alternative exists is unconscionable. A woman who is forced to carry an unwanted pregnancy is having all her rights undermined. A man does not have to worry about having his rights placed second to that of a cluster of cells, does not have to face economic impact in terms of his career taking time off for the pregnancy and birth, to having to place education or career advancement on hold, etc. All this leaves women as second-class citizens.

Making abortion illegal will primarily kill poor women, concentrating this culture of death and tragedy in minority communities. Just as in the days before *Roe*, women of means will be able to travel to progressive states and exercise their rightful freedoms. It is women without means who this ruling will leave isolated in deserts of oppression, their bodies and blood forcibly taken on behalf of another.

Across the country, conservative-led state governments have prepared for this moment. They have written laws that would arrest women for murder after an abortion procedure and trigger legal investigations into every miscarriage. The goal is a regime of fear that will rule women’s lives.

The instant the conservative justices of the Supreme Court make their opinion official, half of the United States will lose their right to medical equality.

This moment has been visible on the horizon since at least 2016, when Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell’s (R-Ky.) Republican-led Congress denied Barack Obama a vote on his nomination of Merrick Garland to fill the late Justice Antonin Scalia’s seat. With that treacherous act, the Republican-controlled Senate gave the fate of the Supreme Court to the 2016 November election, as Ruth Bader Ginsburg quietly discovered she no longer had the fallback option of retiring in the waning days of Obama’s presidency. When the American public failed to elect Hillary Clinton and punish McConnell’s radical rightists, the path toward our oppressive future was set.

These conservative justices’ myopic focus on the “framers’ intent” in the original penning of the Constitution ensures that any person who is not a White male property owner will find their legal future in danger from the long dead grasp of the 1700s. This erasure of

protections shows the fundamental opposition that conservatism as an ideology presents to any struggle to ensure the lives of tomorrow are better than the sufferings of yesterday.

Four years of the Trump administration have populated every level of our justice system with such followers—a legacy with which our nation will struggle for the foreseeable future. This year, the legal rights of American women could fall backward five decades. Democrats in California have safeguarded its residents with state laws to protect abortion rights, but millions upon millions will not be so lucky.

“We must support Democrats in elections across the country as many Republican candidates are prepared to push for a national ban on abortion as soon as they win control of the federal government,” says Ruben Zarate, chair of the Fresno County Democratic Party.

“We must work to build networks to support those isolated in cruel conservative areas. “We have little doubt that the wrong-headed legal reasoning that brought this reversal of rights could next target other cases of modern justice such as same-sex and interracial marriage. “We must stand for women’s reproductive rights every day.”

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