



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Roe is Overturned

FRESNO - The Fresno County Democratic Party is filled with grief and rage as millions of women across the United States have just had their rights to bodily autonomy stripped away. The decision of Conservative Supreme Court Justices Alito, Thomas, Kavanaugh, and Berrett to overturn the fifty year old precedent of Roe v Wade shows there is no line they will not cross in pursuit of a patriarchal christian theocracy. This has been the goal of the Republican party for decades, and now we see the result of their victories in 2016. We had a chance then to stop them, to save our citizens this cruelty, but the voters did not show up.

Across our once great nation, Republican controlled states hold trigger laws which are as we speak instantly restoring the cruel and archaic era of illegal abortion. Women will be forced by the law to have their blood and organs taken over against their will.

This ruling will kill women. This ruling will inflict suffering on women. This ruling will hurt women's economic strength and ability to match men for power in the workforce. And that is the goal.

This ruling 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 travel to progressive states and exercise their rightful freedoms. It is women without means who this ruling will leave isolated in deserts of oppression, without choice and without opportunity.

And do not think that California can stand forever as a bastion against this threat and protect the American women suffering outside our borders. The eras of law these conservative justices have pulled from included the Fugitive Slave Act. It is now no longer unthinkable that a Conservative Supreme Court will once again permit Conservative states to enforce their laws beyond their borders and drag back for punishment any women who flee to escape the bondage inflicted on their bodies. A Fugitive Woman Act is permitted by what these Justices claim is precedent.

Justice Clarence Thomas has stated in his explanation of this decision that his next goal is to allow Republican states to make gay marriage illegal, make consensual gay sex illegal, and make all birth control and contraception illegal by overturning the judicial rulings that protect those rights. Under the reign of this court we citizens have no protections at all, unless we

happen to be born into a position of privilege and strength. Under these Justices there is no limit to the cruelty that state governments can inflict on their residents.

We have entered into a new era of an apartheid America, where half the country now suffers under a regime of Taliban in red baseball caps. Where you are only afforded protection if you are male, straight, and hold a gun in your hand.

The most sickening part of this all is that we could see this tragedy coming from so far away. In 2016, Mitch McConnell led his Republican-controlled Senate to violate the constitution and refuse to vote on any supreme court justices nominated by President Obama. In that moment, the stakes were set; a Republican controlled Senate would never allow a Democrat to enter the Supreme Court.

Then in November of that year, the American public were given the choice to punish or reward the Republicans who declared war on the laws of the United States. We were given a choice of Hillary Clinton, who pledged to protect abortion rights, and Donald Trump, who pledged to destroy them. And that election gave the Republican Party the House, the Senate, and the Presidency.

Today is what happens when you do not elect Democrats. Today is what happens when you get tired of politics. Today is what happens when you say all politicians are the same. Today is what happens when you trust that you are on the right side of history.

Today we all lost.

Now we must get angry. Now we must fight. Now we must scream until our lungs ache and our throats are raw at these people, both men and women, who have shown they believe we deserve no protection. We must look to every elected official at any level of government and see that any one of them who does not voice their disapproval and their own fury at this decision is admitting to you that they are your enemy.

We of the Fresno County Democratic Party condemn this ruling. We will work with all our might to elect as many Democrats to national office as possible, and support Democrats across the country. The only possible way to fix this is a Democratic House, a Democratic President, and sixty Democrats in the Senate to overcome the perpetual Republican filibuster.

The deck is stacked against us. After the total number of Representatives in the house was capped, populous progressive states have been consistently losing power to uninhabited conservative states. In the Senate the barrier is even higher, where one voter in Wyoming has more power than sixty-seven Californians. The Presidential Electoral College is the combination of both those rigged games. Despite there being far more registered Democrats than registered Republicans, we are at a disadvantage.

But we will still fight for our rights to survive and to thrive. And if we all join together, we can bring back the light.

Thank you,
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