



**WOMENHEART**

THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR  
WOMEN WITH HEART DISEASE

## **WomenHeart Statement on Supreme Court Decision Overturning Roe v. Wade**

*It Denies Women Health Care, Threatens Women's Heart Health, Deepens Health Inequities*

June 24, 2022 - The Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* to remove federal protection for abortion care threatens the health and lives of women, [including those living with or at risk of heart disease](#). Without this protection, state laws will prevail, and many states are poised to ban or severely restrict access to abortion care in the weeks and months to come.

"Pregnancy is a significant stress test for the heart," said Celina Gorre, CEO of WomenHeart. "Abortion is health care, and women living with or at risk of heart disease should have access to it, along with any other forms of health care they may need. Removing this federal protection denies women health care, threatens women's heart health and deepens health inequities."

Women living with heart disease, hypertension or diabetes are at increased risk for complications during pregnancy, such as preterm delivery, premature rupture of the membranes or post-partum hemorrhage, as well as cardiac complications, such as arrhythmias and heart failure. Many women don't learn that they have a heart condition until they are pregnant. There are also increasing concerns regarding rare heart conditions, such as peripartum cardiomyopathy and spontaneous coronary artery dissection, during or shortly after pregnancy. All pregnant people, including those living with chronic conditions like heart disease, need access to the full range of reproductive health care services, from contraceptive care to high quality maternal health care to abortion care, if that's what they choose.

At the same time that this decision has been handed down, maternal health outcomes in the United States are worsening, with heart disease as the number one cause of maternal mortality. Further, disparities in maternal mortality and morbidity persist with Black women and Native American women experiencing disproportionately high rates. Because of the heightened mortality and morbidity faced by certain groups of pregnant people, it is particularly unconscionable to force the continuation of a pregnancy that may threaten a person's health or life.

Putting an end to this important option from among the full array of health care services will deny millions of people access to health care that they deserve. As a result of this decision, women across the country will soon be forced to travel out of state to get the abortion care they need or to proceed with a pregnancy that may pose a risk to their health or life.

By restricting abortion care, this Supreme Court decision will have far reaching consequences, both deepening existing health inequities and worsening health outcomes and lives of pregnant women. WomenHeart is committed to ensuring that women living with and at risk of heart disease are able to receive the health care they need to live healthy, thriving lives.

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