

Members of the Yale School of Medicine Committee on the Status of Women in Medicine (SWIM) are profoundly concerned about the adverse impact on women and families of the Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. SWIM is a committee founded to address issues that arise surrounding fair and equitable treatment of women, and we advocate for women with respect to these issues. Therefore, we object to this decision of the Supreme Court of the United States.

This Supreme Court decision violates the core principles of medical ethics that guide our work as physicians and scientists. First and foremost, among these is the principle of bodily autonomy. The concept that an individual has the right to make decisions about their own body is embedded in everything we do in medicine. This right has now been stripped from half of the population. Next is the principle of supporting others (beneficence) and doing no harm (nonmaleficence). A woman's physical and mental health can depend on the ability to end a pregnancy, a right no longer protected by our federal government. Finally, there is the principle of justice. This decision will clearly impact disproportionately people of color and those who are challenged economically.

Regardless of our personal opinions on abortion, in our positions as healthcare professionals and health researchers who are committed to advancing human health, we understand the adverse health impact of restricting abortion access for those who seek it. Pregnancy is not without risk, especially for women with pre-existing comorbid conditions (e.g., cancer, cardiopulmonary disease, among others) in whom pregnancy may cause life-threatening complications. Women with obstetrical complications (e.g., ectopic pregnancy, incomplete miscarriage, among others) may face delays in care as their providers grapple with the risk of legal action and loss of licensure. In states with strict abortion bans, victims of rape and incest, without regard to age or mental health, could be obligated to carry their pregnancies to term.

As a group uniquely concerned with expanding the opportunities for women in medicine, we also note that reproductive freedom has been key to women entering and successfully pursuing the professions of medicine and medical research. Loss of reproductive freedom will constrain women's capacity to undertake lengthy study and training, move for advanced training or a new position, and avoid extended career gaps.

Overturning *Roe v. Wade* dramatically reduces life choices for women and endangers women's lives. Criminalizing abortion will not stop abortions, but it will expand injustice and place women at risk. We strongly assert, as do numerous national medical societies, academic leaders, and citizens, the importance of reproductive freedom and the primacy of the patient-physician relationship in making reproductive healthcare decisions based on medical evidence and without governmental or political interference.