

CHOICE Remarks

SUMMER 2022

Supreme Court Erases Constitutional Right to Abortion



Photo comes from Patrick Dodson from Albany, Proper

"By overturning *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court has now officially given politicians permission to control what we do with our bodies, deciding that we can no longer be trusted to determine the course for our own lives. This dangerous and chilling decision will have devastating consequences all across the country, forcing people to travel hundreds, sometimes thousands, of miles for care or remain pregnant. But make no mistake – this decision goes beyond abortion. This is about who has power over you, who has the authority to make decisions for you, and who can control how your future is going to be.

We will not compromise on our bodies, our dignity, or our freedom."

-Chelly Hegan, President/CEO of UHPP

The Supreme Court overturned nearly 50 years of precedent and eliminated the constitutional right to abortion, stripping people of the right to control their own bodies. This final decision comes eight weeks after the leaked draft decision, and could lead to 26 states swiftly moving to ban abortion.

In New York State, legislators protected abortion access by passing the Reproductive Health Act in 2019. But, we believe all people – no matter where they live – should have the right to control their own body, life, and future. It is unjust and unacceptable that people in some states have been robbed of that right, forced to overcome unjust barriers to access the abortion care they need and deserve.

The consequences of this devastating decision will fall largely on people who already face the greatest barriers to health care due to this country's legacy of racism and discrimination, including Black, Latino, and Indigenous communities, people with low incomes, LGBTQ+ people, immigrants, and people living in rural areas.

The court's decision goes against the will of the American people, 80% of whom support legal abortion.

Without the Supreme Court's protection, states across the country can quickly move to ban abortion. We've already seen many states pass dangerous abortion bans – this decision will fuel politicians' efforts to enact new abortion bans; and in other states, trigger bans that are already on the books will take effect immediately.

You have been by our side through decades of attacks. But this is like nothing we have seen in a generation. We need you now more than ever – for our communities, for our futures. Know this: Planned Parenthood will never back down. We are committed to health equity and will be bold and unapologetic in our demands – people need to control their own body, life, and future; no matter where they live.

Become a Planned Parenthood Volunteer

Now more than ever, we will rise to the challenge to continue to provide care for those in our community. We need a constant presence in our community to let them know that we are here and our doors are open. If you are interested in becoming a Community Outreach Volunteer, please visit our website at uhpp.org and fill out an application.

Expansion and Capacity Building

At Planned Parenthood, we know that banning abortion does not take away people's need to access abortion care. Patients who need to access abortion should not face the shame and overwhelming hurdles that will come from this decision.

Now more than ever, we committed to providing care for those in our community and those who come to us from out of the area or out of the state. We will serve every patient that comes to us for abortion care now and into the future. At UHPP, we have been working hard to prepare for this day.



- Hired an Abortion Navigator to assist patients who are traveling here from across the state or from across the country to help book abortion appointments, make travel arrangements, as well as work with patients to pay for their care.
- Build capacity to make sure that we have resources available to account for increased technology, staffing, wages, and appointment times needed to meet increased demand for services.
- Expand our abortion care services to include the use of nitrous oxide to ease discomfort during an abortion procedure, expand training for staff to increase gestational age at all three centers and invest in our mental health and wellness program.
- Launched a patient reassurance campaign as well as continuing our work to reduce abortion stigma in our community.

Find out more about our plans on our website at uhpp.org.

Patient Reassurance Marketing Campaign

This is a scary and confusing time for our patients. Media reports about the overturning of Roe may confuse people into thinking abortion is banned in all states. Abortion is still legal in New York and we launched a campaign to reassure our patients that we will continue to provide the care they need.

The patient reassurance campaign "Abortion is legal" launched at the end of June and will run through the summer. The campaign is a mix of traditional and digital media including SnapChat, YouTube, Cross Screen Video, GeoFencing, bus ads, tv and billboards.



What can you do to support UHPP?

UHPP is working to raise \$460,000 to fund our initiatives and increase our capacity to provide abortion through December 31, 2023. You can help by:

- **Hosting a fundraiser or start a Just Giving fundraiser** for Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood
- **Joining the Leadership Circle** and take a public stand for UHPP's mission and services
- **Supporting our Annual Fund** to protect reproductive healthcare and education at UHPP
- **Putting UHPP in your estate plans** to sustain services for future generations through your will, trust, annuity or other planned gifts

To find out more, visit our website at uhpp.org or contact our Development team at dev@uhpp.org.



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