

The Supreme Court  
overturned *Roe v. Wade* – but  
we're not going anywhere.

**OUR DOORS  
ARE STILL OPEN.**



## WE WON'T BACK DOWN

*A message from Amanda*

We all know that this is a dark time in our struggle for reproductive freedom. The U.S. Supreme Court has taken away our federal constitutional right to abortion, **stripping away our most basic freedom: the right to control our own bodies.** Already, millions of people have lost access in states that have enacted abortion bans, and millions more will in the coming months.

In the midst of so much devastating news, we must dream bigger, knowing a better, more equitable future is possible. **Abortion remains legal in Connecticut and Rhode Island.** Our health centers are still open and providing abortion care. **We have taken important steps to expand abortion access in Connecticut this year, and we are pushing forward to remove barriers in Rhode Island.** We are innovating and optimizing our care model to serve as many patients as we can, regardless of their zip code, income level, or immigration status. And we are focused on reducing the stigma that surrounds abortion in the current public dialogue. **Abortion is health care. Normalizing abortion as a health care option that should be accessible to anyone who**

**needs it, is a critical strategy in our fight to restore the rights we have lost and to protect the rights that may be in danger.**

This special edition of FOCUS is your field guide. **It will give you information on how we got here, what could be coming next, and what you can do.** With your support, we will continue to fight like hell to ensure all people have access to the health care and information they need to control their own bodies, lives, and futures.

Onward,  
Amanda



*Amanda Skinner, President and CEO*

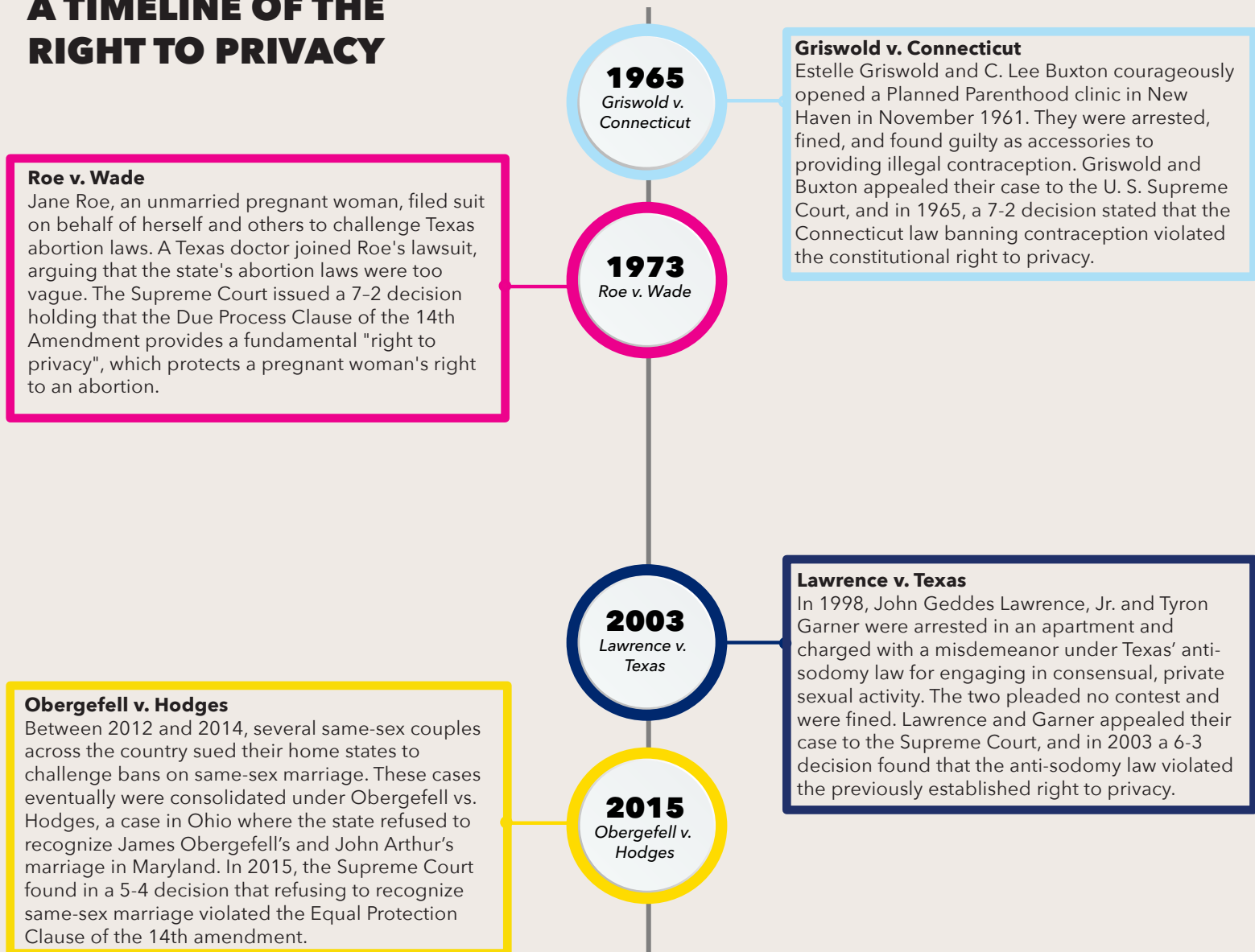
# A World Without Roe

## The History of the Right to Privacy

This summer, the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) took away the federal constitutional right to abortion by overturning *Roe v. Wade*. To understand how we arrived at this moment of crisis, we must go back to the beginning of the constitutional right to privacy.

The federal constitutional right to privacy began with *Griswold v. Connecticut* in 1965. This landmark case helped lay the foundation for the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision. The right to privacy was continually re-established in the decisions on: *Loving v. Virginia* in 1967, *Eisenstadt v. Baird* in 1972, *Lawrence v. Texas* in 2003 and *Obergefell v. Hodges* in 2015.

## A TIMELINE OF THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY



## The JWHO v. Dobbs Case and Decision

Jackson Women's Health Organization (JWHO) v. Dobbs is the case that explicitly called for the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. In 2018, Mississippi passed an extreme abortion ban which made the procedure illegal after 15-weeks. Jackson Women's Health, Mississippi's only abortion provider, sued the state over the constitutionality of the law. As the case made its way through the lower courts, it was struck down repeatedly for being unconstitutional, granting restraining orders and injunctions to invalidate the abortion ban. In June 2020, Thomas Dobbs, health officer of the Mississippi Department of Health appealed to the

U.S. Supreme Court, which granted their review of the case almost a year after. **With the composition of the court shifting to a 6-3 majority of justices hostile to abortion rights, the future of Roe was uncertain.** Our worst fears were seemingly confirmed in early May 2022, when a leaked draft of the majority opinion on the JWHO case, revealed that the court had taken away the federal constitutional right to an abortion. The court's final decision in late June brought us to this crisis point.

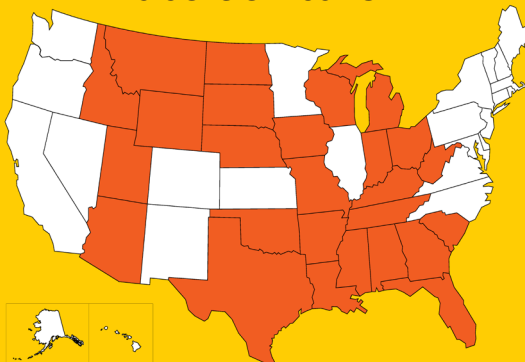
### ***What will Happen Without Roe?***

What is happening in Texas due to their 6-week abortion ban is a case study for what we'll see now that *Roe* is overturned: people are being forced to travel hundreds or thousands of miles to access care out of state, seek abortion outside of the health care system entirely, or forced to carry a pregnancy to term against their will.

As of the time of this writing, there are abortion bans active in 12 states, each one with its own specific level of legal nuance and difference. This was the goal of the anti-abortion movement—**to create the chaotic and uncertain landscape across the nation we see right now so that there is no single, sweeping action to combat these bans.** Instead, time, energy, and resources are required to understand the implications of each ban, state by state and to take action in response.

Thirty-six million women – nearly half of the women of reproductive age (18-49) in the nation – and more people who can become pregnant, already have or soon will lose abortion access in their state. **Twenty-six states have already or are expected to enact abortion bans. But that does not mean the status of abortion will be settled.** For some states, the courts will determine what happens with existing bans, or politicians may propose new laws to restrict abortion access. In others, abortion rights are protected by state law, and legislators may move to expand access – like here in Connecticut and Rhode Island.

### **States with active or expected abortion bans**



Map based off Guttmacher Institute data.  
For the most up to date information on state by state abortion access, visit:  
<https://states.guttmacher.org/policies/>

### ***The Harm of a Post-Roe World***

Abortion bans disproportionately harm Black, Latino, Indigenous people, and other people of color and people of low income because of this country's legacy of racism and discrimination. Research by the University of Colorado-Boulder shows that **banning abortion nationwide could lead to a 33% increase in pregnancy-related deaths among Black women**, compared with rates for 2017.

The harm that a post-Roe world will create goes beyond health. Research shows that being denied abortion care and ultimately forced to carry a pregnancy to term results in worse financial, mental health, and family outcomes. Economically, the harm of forced pregnancies can affect women's education, employment, and earning prospects, and can impact the labor market more broadly.

## **THE HARMS OF BEING DENIED ABORTION + FORCED TO CARRY PREGNANCY TO TERM**

Based on The Turnaway Study (UCSF, 2020)  
For more information visit: [bit.ly/turnaway-study](https://bit.ly/turnaway-study)

**MORE LIKELY TO STAY IN CONTACT WITH A VIOLENT PARTNER**

**MORE LIKELY TO LIVE BELOW THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL**

**WORSE CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

**MORE LIKELY TO EXPERIENCE SERIOUS PREGNANCY-RELATED HEALTH PROBLEMS**

**INCREASES HOUSEHOLD POVERTY LASTING AT LEAST 4 YEARS**

**LOWERED CREDIT SCORE INCREASED AMOUNT OF DEBT**

# What Does this Decision Mean in Connecticut and Rhode Island?

## A TIMELINE OF CONNECTICUT AND RHODE ISLAND'S LEGAL PROTECTION OF ABORTION

1990	2019	2022	2023
CT codifies the right to abortion into state law	RI's Reproductive Privacy Act becomes law, codifying the right to abortion into state law	CT's Reproductive Freedom Defense Act passes and signed into law	RI's Equality in Abortion Coverage Act (EACA) enters its third year of legislative session

### ***Connecticut Passes Reproductive Freedom Defense Act***

In Connecticut, the Reproductive Freedom Defense Act was passed and signed into law in 2022, expanding access to abortion by removing medically unnecessary barriers in state regulations that prevented qualified, trained advanced practice clinicians (APCs) from providing aspiration abortion for their patients. The law also helps protect abortion providers and patients receiving abortion care in Connecticut from the "bounty hunter" provisions included in copy cat Texas abortion bans across the country.



CT's Gov. Ned Lamont signs the Reproductive Freedom Defense Act into law in May 2022

### ***Rhode Islanders Need the Equality in Abortion Coverage Act***

In Rhode Island, we must eliminate abortion bans that prohibit abortion coverage for residents enrolled in Medicaid and people on the state employee insurance plan. Right now, one in three Rhode Islanders cannot use their insurance coverage for abortion – due to state laws.

You can help by telling your legislator to support the Equality in Abortion Coverage Act.

### ***The Future of Abortion Rights in CT and RI***

Even with the legal protection of abortion at the state level, there are still barriers to care in both states. Lack of transportation and childcare, difficulty obtaining time off from work, and affordability challenges still prevent pregnant people from accessing abortion. We must remain vigilant in our work to dismantle these barriers and to prevent backsliding in our states. New Hampshire's passage of a 24-week abortion ban and the recent decision to defund family planning centers across the state show that access can be rolled back quickly.

While abortion remains legal in Connecticut and Rhode Island, **the state protections would be meaningless if the dark yet true threat of a federal abortion ban becomes a reality.** If there are shifts in the national political landscape, this nightmare threat can quickly become real life. **Until recently, the possibility that almost half of the country would lose the right to abortion seemed remote.**

**The courts are no longer a backstop for our rights. We must protect abortion for all people.**

#### **PPSNE Information**

Administration: 203.865.5158  
Call 1.800.230.PLAN (7526) to reach the center nearest you.  
ppsne.org

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New Haven, CT 06511  
  
175 Broad Street  
Providence, RI 02903

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**#IStandWithPP**

Show your support by making a contribution today at **ppsne.org/donate** or call **203.865.5158**

# ACT FOR ABORTION

5 **critical** ways you can act for abortion access:

1

## DONATE TO ABORTION FUNDS

**National Network of Abortion Funds**

<https://abortionfunds.org/funds/>

**The REACH Fund of Connecticut**

<https://reachfundct.org/donate>

**WHEF, Women's Health &**

**Education Fund of Rhode Island**

<https://whefri.org/take-action>

2

## SIGN THE BANS OFF OUR BODIES PETITION

Sign the **national #BansOffOurBodies Petition** and **share the link with your friends** to make sure they add their names to stay updated with what's happening, too.

<https://bit.ly/BansOffPetition>

3

## SHARE YOUR STORY

**Why does Planned Parenthood matter to you?**

Storytelling is a powerful tool to show our elected officials why everyone needs and deserves access to sexual and reproductive health care, including abortion.

<https://www.weareplannedparenthood.org/a/be-a-storyteller>

*Share why you fight for abortion access on social media using #WhateverTheReason #ThisIsPersonal*

**We need you now more than ever.**

# ACT FOR ABORTION

5 critical ways you can act for abortion access:

4

## TALK ABOUT ABORTION AND SAY THE WORD ABORTION, TOO!

You can help reduce abortion stigma and normalize abortion care by talking about abortion with your friends, families, and networks. Decades of **research show how conversations and using the word abortion can reduce the stigma** that causes harm to so many.

**Start with a shared value or rights-based message.**

**Use our guide to help start the conversation.**

<https://bit.ly/AbortionConvoGuide>

5

## REGISTER TO VOTE AND CHECK-IN WITH YOUR FRIENDS!

**Your vote is your voice.**

Be ready to cast your ballot in November by registering to vote or checking to make sure you're registered at your current address (*many voters forget to update their registration!*).

**Tell 5 friends to check their voter registration status, too.**

**Register to vote:** <https://bit.ly/Reg-To-Vote>

**Check your Voter Status:** <https://bit.ly/Check-Your-Status>

**We need you now more than ever.**