

THE PRO ROE PROJECT

[Full name (req)]

[Address (city and state req)]

[Phone number (opt)]

[Date (req)]

[Government official name]

[Government position]

[Address]

Dear [government official name],

It is with agonizing disappointment that I am writing this letter and asking for your help. June 24, 2022 will live in infamy as the day that destroyed nearly 50 years of progressive women's rights. The Supreme Court has failed the American people. They have shattered the trust the country has had in them since 1789, and now we turn to the states to uphold our liberties. You can protect the physical, mental, and emotional health of millions of women. We ask you now to stand strong in the face of discrimination.

By outlawing abortion (termination), a fetus will gain rights that no other human possesses: the right to use someone else's body without express and ongoing consent.¹ This is undeniably unethical and a clear breach of bodily autonomy. The wishes of a deceased person are respected if they are not an organ donor; their organs cannot be harvested to save a child with kidney failure or a mother of four with lung cancer. Yet, the United States government has stolen this same autonomy from *living* women. Will you be the one to tell her she will have more rights when she's dead?

People who are denied access abortion are more likely to experience poverty, bankruptcy, and intimate partner violence.^{2,3} They are more likely to be raising the child alone, without a partner or family, within five years of that child's birth. Sixty percent of people seeking abortions are already parents; if they are denied termination, their existing children's wellbeing, development, and financial security are negatively impacted as a result.⁴ Women who are denied abortion report more life-threatening complications during that pregnancy, as well as increased chronic health conditions overall.⁵ Historically, abortion bans only stop *safe* abortions, making unsafe abortions the third leading cause of maternal death, worldwide.⁶

As a result of the Texas trigger bans, we have already seen critical delays in care. Physicians are trained to identify life-threatening medical emergencies, the only exception for termination under this radical law, but they are being threatened with legal action at every step of the way. Life-saving procedures are being delayed as physicians beg for permission to do their jobs from lawyers and judges. *How dead* must a patient be before it is legal to perform a medically necessary termination? How can you ask a physician to choose their license or their patient?

As a [US citizen, woman, husband, father, mother, son, etc], I cannot stand idly by while this injustice seeks to wipe out the rights of the women in, supposedly, one of the greatest nations in the world. We implore you to take action in upholding the rights of the American people. We thank you for your service, and your consideration of our cause.

Sincerely,

[Full name]

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Resources:

- ¹ YouTube. (2022). *Doctor Explains Roe vs Wade - What Overturning Means for Health & Autonomy in Pregnancy*. YouTube. Retrieved June 27, 2022, from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rHrxSUGLvA>.
- ² Foster, et al. (2020). *The Economic Consequences of Being Denied an Abortion*. (Working Paper #26662). <https://www.nber.org/papers/w26662>.
- ³ Roberts, S.C., Biggs, M.A., Chibber, K.S. *et al.* Risk of violence from the man involved in the pregnancy after receiving or being denied an abortion. *BMC Med* **12**, 144 (2014). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12916-014-0144-z>
- ⁴ Foster, D.G., Raifman, S.E., Gipson, J.D. *et al.* (2018). Effects of Carrying an Unwanted Pregnancy to Term on Women's Existing Children. *Journal of Pediatrics*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpeds.2018.09.026>.
- ⁵ Gerdt C, Dobkin L, Foster DG, Schwarz EB. Side Effects, Physical Health Consequences, and Mortality Associated with Abortion and Birth after an Unwanted Pregnancy. *Womens Health Issues*. 2016 Jan-Feb;26(1):55-9. doi: 10.1016/j.whi.2015.10.001. Epub 2015 Nov 11. PMID: 26576470.
- ⁶ *Key facts on abortion*. Amnesty International. (2022, June 15). Retrieved June 27, 2022, from <https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/sexual-and-reproductive-rights/abortion-facts/>

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The Honorable Pamela Evette
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