

June 27, 2022

Official Statement regarding the American Supreme Court Reversal of Roe v. Wade

As medical students and future physicians, we believe that it is our most salient extra-professional responsibility to advocate on behalf of the rights and social conditions of our patients, as these invariably impact their health and quality-of-life. Moreover, we strongly adhere to the notion that our profession should uphold the fundamental principles of freedom and personal autonomy in order to best serve and empower patients in their healing.

For this reason, we express our sincere and outraged discontent at the American Supreme Court's recent overturning of Roe v. Wade, which has reduced the termination of pregnancy to a matter of state-to-state legislation. This has already left, and will continue to leave, a large number of people, particularly poor and/or racialized minorities, in conditions less favorable to leading a healthy, free, and prosperous life than previous generations. It is emphatic to stress that terminating an unwanted pregnancy ought to be considered a basic right premised on the notions of personal freedom and bodily autonomy. Additionally, we condemn the criminalization of physicians who choose to perform abortions, which has already been enacted in certain states, on the basis that such regulation violates our sacred duty to provide adequate and patient-oriented healthcare. The decision to terminate a pregnancy should not be dictated by authorities external to the patient-physician relationship.

We also fear that this decision will have irreparable impacts on other spheres of reproductive health such as contraceptive health, LGBTQ2S+ health and the field of fertility. We iterate that all sexual and reproductive health, including family planning, are an essential part of patient healthcare and that denying this care would have devastating effects on the physical and mental health of countless individuals.

As Canadians, we understand that the state-of-affairs of the United States does not affect us directly at the present time. However, political climates are always subject to change and regress, especially when American ideological influence holds so much power within our national discourse. Therefore, we must remain steadfast and unwavering in our support of the rights to personal freedom and bodily autonomy which previous generations have fought so hard and courageously to achieve. As medical students and future healthcare workers, we choose to embrace the continuing struggle to advocate and protect the right to abortion in Canada.

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On behalf of
McGill Medical Students for Choice (MMSFC)
McGill Health for Human Rights