



Statement on Supreme Court *Dobbs v. Jackson* Decision

On June 24, 2022, the United States Supreme Court ruled in *Dobbs v. Jackson* that “the Constitution does not confer a right to abortion,”¹ thus, overturning *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. This decision dissolved a federal injunction on Ohio S.B 63, or the “Heartbeat Bill,” allowing it to take effect.² In Ohio, an individual will now only be able to receive an abortion within six weeks of pregnancy, the time before the fetus has a heartbeat. Dr. Sarah Horvath from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists adds, “Unless a woman is actively trying to get pregnant, she is unlikely to know that she is pregnant at six weeks.”³ Moreover, the Heartbeat Bill may only be a buffer for the legislature to write a bill banning abortion entirely, as seen in Ohio House Bill 598⁴ and Ohio Senate Bill 123.⁵

As the Undergraduate Student Government, we condemn these recent decisions overturning a 50-year precedent that protected the right to privacy for every individual. This decision has clear ramifications for students not only at Ohio State’s Columbus campus, but across regional campuses and OSU-affiliated centers across the State.

USG was founded to advocate on behalf of the student body, and we are committed to defending a student’s right to choose. Our plan involves first joining with fellow student organizations to lobby lawmakers to protect this right. Second, we aim to work with the campus community to provide resources for students to make the best decisions for themselves. Third, we will partner with fellow student organizations and the University to embark on a voter registration and civic engagement campaign to inform all students of their rights within a democratic society.

Moreover, we call on The Ohio State University to continue providing contraceptive services and reproductive materials at the Student Health Center and leverage existing resources via the Office of Governmental Affairs to help us protect students’ right to choose their healthcare outcomes.

Signed,

Andrew Pierce, II
Undergraduate Student Body President

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Undergraduate Student Body Vice President

Resources

- Planned Parenthood - North Columbus Health Center at 18 E. 17th Avenue, 206 E. State St.
- Planned Parenthood - East Columbus Surgical Center at 3255 East Main Street, Columbus OH, 43213
- Your Choice Healthcare at 6721 Karl Road, Columbus OH, 43229
- The Ohio State University’s Wilce Student Health Center at 1875 Millikin Road, Columbus OH, 43210

¹ https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/21pdf/19-1392_6j37.pdf

² <https://www.10tv.com/article/news/local/ohio/ohios-heartbeat-bill-becomes-law-federal-court-lifts-injunction/530-ae0e7a91-9f20-47ec-94c6-cd4c6ede829a>

³ <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/18/parenting/abortion-six-weeks-pregnant.html>

⁴ <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-HB-598>

⁵ <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/legislation-summary?id=GA134-SB-123>