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**\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\***

***Legal Aid Statement on SCOTUS Ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, Ending a Half-Century Guarantee of Federal Constitutional Protection of Abortion Rights Under Landmark Roe v. Wade***

(NEW YORK, NY) – The Legal Aid Society released the following statement in response to a United States Supreme Court ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which overturns the landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision that made abortion legal nationwide:

“The Legal Aid Society wholly condemns today’s ruling to overturn a decision that has been law for nearly 50 years and has protected the basic human right to allow people to make their own decisions regarding their reproductive health and maintain bodily autonomy. We deplore the utter audacity of the Supreme Court Justices who voted to overturn abortion rights for millions of pregnant people across the country.

Stripping people of their reproductive rights isn’t pro-life – it’s pro-oppression. This ruling will exacerbate racial inequities and disproportionately harm the most vulnerable and marginalized communities of color who already face obstacles to healthcare. Forcing people to carry unwanted pregnancies to term will push families deeper into poverty and put the lives of pregnant people, many of whom are BIPOC women, at [risk](#).

As the oldest and largest public defender organization in New York, we have seen firsthand how our incarcerated clients are routinely denied access to healthcare in detention and prison, including abortion and other reproductive rights. We know the devastating impact that a lack of access to reproductive healthcare and abortion has on our clients and their families.

We stand with all those impacted by today's Supreme Court ruling. The Legal Aid Society will continue exploring our role in pushing back against the Court's dismantling of our civil and human rights.”

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*The Legal Aid Society exists for one simple yet powerful reason: to ensure that New Yorkers are not denied their right to equal justice because of poverty. For over 145 years, we have protected, defended, and advocated for those who have struggled in silence for far too long. Every day, in every borough, The Legal Aid Society changes the lives of our clients and helps improve our communities. [www.legalaidnyc.org](http://www.legalaidnyc.org)*