



State Senator Kayse Jama

Senate District 24 (D-East Portland)

Native land of Multnomah, Wasco, Cowlitz, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Bands of Chinook, Tualatin Kalapuya, Molalla, and many other tribes that made their homes along the Columbia and Willamette Rivers

STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jun. 24, 2022

Contact: Kien Truong

sen.kaysejama@oregonlegislature.gov

Oregon State Senator Kayse Jama on the Supreme Court Overturning 49 Years of Reproductive Rights

Today, the Supreme Court voted to overturn almost five decades of reproductive rights enshrined in Roe v Wade and codified in Planned Parenthood v Casey. This systematic and coordinated effort by Republicans to strip Americans of their bodily autonomy is disgusting and dangerous, and will undoubtedly impact the most vulnerable.

This is a dark day in America.

Not only does this action set our nation back almost 50 years, but set the precedent by which many more freedoms can be revoked. From abortion to voting rights to gun control to the criminal justice system, this far-right Court has made it increasingly clear that the rights once thought fundamental to our Democracy are merely an illusory set of freedoms that can be removed by the stroke of a pen.

It is more important now than ever to codify our liberties in our state and federal laws. I am proud that the Oregon was one of the first states to legalize abortion, that the right to abortion is protected in our state constitution, and that the Oregon legislature has taken continuous steps towards making abortion accessible for all who want it.

However, this does not mean that the action of the Supreme Court today will not impact Oregonians. Now that we have lost the federal blanket of protection, Oregonians are vulnerable to a national abortion ban which Republican leaders have indicated they will pursue should they retake power.

This is a terrifying moment for millions of Americans whose fears have become reality. However, we cannot be paralyzed by this decision.

Now is the time to channel our anger and outrage into action.

Now is the time to organize and protest.

Now is the time to call our congresspeople and demand that they pass federal protections.

Now is the time to ask every person running to represent us from school board, to county commission, to state legislature, to congress, to make it clear where they stand on reproductive freedom.

Because today we were reminded that our freedoms were never guaranteed – that if we fail to sustain the arduous work of progress, that if we regress into political apathy, our liberties once held certain will be taken from us.

As your state senator, know that I will do everything in my power to protect a person's right to choose.

In Solidarity,

Kayse

###