



STATEMENT BIPOC CAUCUS

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BIPOC Caucus Statement on the Release of the *Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health* Organization Decision

SALEM, Ore. — The Legislative Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) Caucus released the following statement in response to the Supreme Court's *Dobbs v. Jackson* Supreme Court decision to strike down *Roe v. Wade*:

“In our lifetimes, we are witnessing the Supreme Court nullify the Constitutional right to a safe and legal abortion for millions of Americans. The extreme *Dobbs v. Jackson* decision represents an overreach of the fundamental right to bodily autonomy and overturns 50 years of settled law,” said [Senator Akasha Lawrence Spence](#) (D-Portland), Co-Vice Chair of the BIPOC Caucus. “Oregon is one of sixteen states that have been preparing for this moment by enshrining abortion access into statute. These actions taken at the state level ensure that we as Oregonians and all those who seek care within our borders, have power over our lives, personal medical decisions, and full agency over our bodies.”

Abortion will remain legal and accessible for Oregon residents and anyone who travels to Oregon for an abortion and other essential health care. In 2017, the Oregon Legislature and a diverse, statewide coalition passed the Reproductive Health Equity Act (RHEA) ([HB 3391](#)) to expand access to abortion and free and low-cost reproductive care.

In 2022, the BIPOC Caucus advocated for the passage of the [Reproductive Health Equity Fund \(HB 5202\)](#), which allocated \$15 million to improve access to abortion in Oregon, close existing gaps, and prepare for waves of residents from neighboring states traveling to Oregon.

“With over 530 abortion restrictions introduced in states this year, fighting to make abortion care accessible to our most directly impacted pregnant people in

Oregon and in neighboring states with active bans is a critical step towards dismantling systems of white supremacy and patriarchy.” said [Representative Andrea Valderrama](#) (D- Portland), Co-Vice Chair of the BIPOC Caucus. “While this ruling is frightening and infuriating, I remain committed to fighting with you for a liberated future where we have the freedom and power to make choices for our bodies.”

“We know that youth, low-income people, disabled people, rural people, Black, Indigenous, and people of color will face the most harm in states that criminalize abortion. This is why I am proud to have been a strong supporter and fought hard to help pass one of our country’s strongest reproductive rights laws.” said [Representative Teresa Alonso Leon](#) (D-Woodburn). “I will continue to fight to protect peoples’ right to their own bodies.”

Oregon House Democrats have started a Reproductive Health and Access to Care Workgroup to further expand equitable access to reproductive and gender-affirming care. This workgroup includes providers, clinics, community organizations, and legislators. [Representative Travis Nelson](#) (D-Portland) and [Representative Andrea Valderrama](#) (D-Portland) are included among the legislative members.

“At a time when the Black maternal mortality rate is nearly three times higher than the general population, the conservative majority of the Supreme Court is placing their extreme agenda over the lives of communities who already face systemic barriers to critical and essential care.” said [Representative Travis Nelson](#) (D-Portland), a board certified nurse. “I ran for office to ensure that all Oregonians can access high-quality health care, including comprehensive reproductive health care. We are committed to introducing legislation that will eliminate existing barriers and lead to healthier lives”

All people deserve access to abortion care when they need it, on the timeline they choose and in the community they trust. To find abortion care, you can visit AbortionFinder.org.

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