

STATEMENT HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Oregon House Majority Leader Statement on Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization

SALEM, Ore. - In response to the U.S. Supreme Court decision *Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization,* overturning *Roe v Wade* and the constitutional right to an abortion in America, <u>House Majority Leader Julie Fahey</u> (D-West Eugene/Junction City), releases the following statement:

"This decision will harm millions of Americans who now no longer have access to safe and legal abortions in this country.

"I was born after Roe v. Wade was decided in 1973. So, my generation has never known a world where we did not have the legal right to access abortion. But my entire life, anti-choice Republican politicians and judges have been working towards this exact moment. We have never had a constitutional right taken away from us — but that's exactly what this Supreme Court has done today.

"I want to be clear: **In Oregon, abortion is still and will continue to be legal, safe, affordable and accessible.** That's because we believe that everyone should have the right to decide if and when they have children, based on what's best for them and their family's circumstances. Access to abortion shouldn't depend on who you are or where you live.

"We are prepared for this moment in Oregon because for the last decade, Oregonians have elected Democratic majorities to our Legislature. During my first term in 2017, I was proud to chief sponsor the Reproductive Health Equity Act (RHEA), one of the strongest abortion access laws in the country. RHEA codified the right to an abortion in state law and made the full range of reproductive health care services more affordable and accessible for all Oregonians. And this year we've taken <u>even more</u> <u>action</u> to close existing gaps, expand provider capacity and support for patients traveling to the state for care. "I know this moment is not easy, but Oregon Democrats are committed to taking action, expanding abortion access, and protecting our fundamental rights. Many generations have fought tirelessly to gain and protect the rights we have today. We owe it to them to continue to fight for a world where all of us have the freedom and the power to control our own bodies and our own lives."

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