



## OFFICE OF THE HOUSE SPEAKER

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### NEWS RELEASE

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## **House Speaker Dan Rayfield issues statement on the U.S. Supreme Court ruling overturning *Roe v. Wade***

SALEM – Following the release of the United States Supreme Court decision in the case of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, which overturns the constitutional right to an abortion established by the *Roe v. Wade* decision, Oregon House Speaker Dan Rayfield issued the following statement:

“This will go down as an incredibly dark day in American history. Let's be clear about the stakes: The extreme *Dobbs* decision will make women and individuals across the country less safe. It will harm millions of people, most specifically people of color and low-income individuals, and worsen existing inequality.

“This decision takes away the ability of Americans to control their own bodies and lives, and turns that power over to politicians. All individuals should have the right to make the most personal and private decisions that affect their lives, their health, and their families.

“Oregonians have time and again affirmed the right to access an abortion. While we have protected the right to an abortion here in Oregon regardless of what happened this morning at the Supreme Court, this misguided decision against the will of a vast majority of Americans will have wide-ranging, negative implications as other states move to criminalize health care.

“However, we will not let our despair at today's decision overwhelm our need to work even harder to protect and expand access to all forms of reproductive health care. Legislative leadership will keep working to identify where protections for Oregonians seeking care can be made stronger and prepare for this new national landscape.

“We will be taking action to strengthen and improve our laws during the next legislative session.”

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