



OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

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Senate Democrats Vow to Protect Abortion Access in light of Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization Ruling

SALEM – Following this morning's U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, Oregon Senate Democrats collectively renewed their commitment to defending abortion access and reproductive health care in our state.

“I am outraged at this extreme, ideological decision. Abortion and reproductive services are health care,” said Senate Majority Leader Rob Wagner (D-Lake Oswego). “Pro-Choice states like Oregon are now the last line of defense to protect abortion and reproductive health care rights. It's more important than ever to elect leaders that will protect abortion and reproductive health care. Our Democratic majority is the dividing line.”

Senate Democrats continue to protect and expand Oregon's legacy of reproductive justice. In 2017, Senate Democrats passed Oregon's Reproductive Health Equity Law, expanding coverage for folks in need of abortion services including our undocumented neighbors. Oregon's Reproductive Health Equity Act codified the right to an abortion into Oregon state law.

“In more than 30 years of ordained ministry, I have been asked countless times to provide counsel, prayerful support and pastoral care to people making medical decisions. I remember how terrifying it was for women to seek abortions before *Roe v. Wade*. We cannot go back,” said Senator Deb Patterson (D-Salem), Chair of the Senate Committee on Health Care. “Oregon has long been a national leader in expanding reproductive health care and defending the right to choose. Now Oregon must step up to protect reproductive rights for those who have been endangered by the Dobbs ruling.”

During the 2022 Legislative Session, Oregon Senate Democrats passed \$15 million to support the Reproductive Health Equity Fund to shrink access deserts, helping to expand abortion access and reproductive health care to underserved parts of the state. Oregon Senate

Democrats stand committed to protecting abortion access and reproductive rights heading into the 2023 Legislative Session.

“People with resources, money, and power will always be able to access abortion regardless of what the Supreme Court dictates. The impact of overturning Roe will be felt largely by Black, Indigenous, and Latinx people, youth of color under 25, disabled people, immigrants, people living with low incomes, and people in rural areas— communities who have long faced barriers to abortion access due to systemic barriers and discrimination,” said Senator Akasha Lawrence Spence (D-Portland). “We must continue to expand access to abortion and vital health care services as Oregon stands against national anti-choice extremists.”

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