

UWR's Response to the Draft Opinion of Roe vs Wade



United We Rise (UWR) is a Black-led, intersectional effort to unite and mobilize to end the HIV epidemic in our communities and uplift the quality of life of Black people. We aim to deepen intersectional solidarity across Black communities and across justice movements, democratize power, and amplify policy approaches that destigmatize and decriminalize Black bodies.

Seen through the lens of UWR's work, the leaked draft of a Supreme Court ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* (which would overturn the landmark 1973 *Roe vs Wade* decision) previews an assault on the liberty of Black people in the United States. If issued as currently written, it would shackle Black women and others who can become pregnant, abrogating their right to bodily autonomy.

Abortion restrictions are inherently racist in application - affecting Black families, Black communities, and other people of color disproportionately. Closing agencies that provide abortion care and overall reproductive and sexual health services further stigmatizes and negatively impacts the overall wellbeing of Black people. The immediate impact of eliminating services provided by reproductive health clinics in parts of the nation with large Black populations will widen health inequities.

As people living with HIV, healthcare providers, researchers, civic and faith leaders, and advocates engaged in HIV and other social justice movements, we clearly see the danger that unraveling *Roe v Wade* poses to other civil rights we now treasure. A radical, increasingly illegitimate Supreme Court may choose to dismiss established precedents now in its crosshairs: *Griswold v Connecticut* (contraception); *Loving v Virginia* (interracial marriage); *Lawrence v Texas* (same-sex intimate contact); *Obergefell v Hodges* (marriage equality) – to name a few that may be in peril.

United We Rise strongly affirms that the decision to become pregnant or not, to have an abortion or not, to raise a child one has delivered, or to allow someone else to do so (through adoption, surrogacy, or other arrangement), should be a person's unfettered choice, with input from whomever they choose, without the need for consent from anyone.

Abortion care is health care. It is a reproductive right. Universal and equitable health care is an essential right that communities and government should ensure, enforce, and protect, not criminalize.