

A Resolution In Solidarity With All Affected Individuals By Roe v Wade, Taking A Stance Against its Potential Overturn.

WHEREAS, on May 2nd, 2022, a draft of a Supreme Court document was leaked to the public, demonstrating that there is an intent to overturn Roe v. Wade¹; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, the decision of Roe v Wade was established to protect an individual's right to safe and legal abortions by extending protections in the name of one's constitutional right to privacy²; and

WHEREAS, this present attack on Roe v Wade is not the first: in 1976, the Hyde Amendment determined restrictions on abortion options for impregnated individuals. Subsequently, under the Reagan Administration, new laws gave states individual autonomy over decisions on abortions. This was exacerbated by the Affordable Care Act's divestment from reproductive healthcare, including cuts to abortion cost coverage, followed by attempts to defund Planned Parenthood – all events that emboldened abortion bans in states like Mississippi and Texas³; and

WHEREAS, the denial of reproductive choice goes against bodily autonomy, and the majority of college students support the option and access to abortion.⁴

WHEREAS, in the United States, college-aged women 20-24 years old make up the majority of those who have abortions, and 40% of people report that they have abortions because “having a child could derail their education;”⁵ and,

WHEREAS, the decision to overturn Roe v. Wade would have an abominable impact on the lives of all bodies that are able to bear children in the United States of America, ultimately depriving individuals of the autonomy and agency over their own bodies; and

WHEREAS, while the Jewish community and other religious minorities have a range of opinions on abortion, there is a strong and broad commitment in these traditions to defending the life of pregnant women above all else, and therefore many abortion bans will undermine their religious and cultural freedom; and

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<https://www.npr.org/2022/05/03/1096075487/leaked-document-suggests-the-supreme-court-intends-to-strike-down-roe-v-wade>

² https://www.plannedparenthood.org/files/3013/9611/5870/Abortion_Roe_History.pdf

³ <https://www.vox.com/23055389/roe-v-wade-timeline-abortion-overturn-political-polarization>

⁴ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0362331900001014>

⁵ <https://www.gutmacher.org/united-states/abortion>

WHEREAS, the impediment of reproductive freedom would have the most disproportionate impact on the lives of marginalized individuals, such as BIPOC individuals, LGBTQ+ community members, people with disabilities, and other populations who are vulnerable to systemic injustice and an inequitable healthcare system⁶; and

WHEREAS, the illegalization of abortion is an infringement of reproductive freedom that permeates sexism, racism, misogyny, transphobia, ableism; and

WHEREAS, the overturn of Roe v. Wade explicitly criminalizes individuals with bodies that are able to bear children for their ability to choose on matters that include but are not limited to pregnancy in the case of unexpected conception, medical emergencies, or sexual violence.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Student Association Council stresses the opposition to the potential overturn of Roe v Wade.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Student Association Council calls on the UCLA Administration to acknowledge the emotional stress that this news has caused and must publicly acknowledge the weight of the issue.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Student Association Council will support the previous Council's letter to California Governor Gavin Newsom, dated May 5, 2021, calling for him to constitutionalize abortion in the state of California.⁷

LET IT BE FINALLY BE RESOLVED, that the Undergraduate Student Association Council calls on the UCLA Administration to mobilize support in the form of extended psychological services and resources to work with organizations and communities affected by the potential overturn of Roe v Wade.

⁶ <https://www.aclu.org/issues/reproductive-freedom/abortion>

⁷ <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1A4j4nBu5HP6n3YIZMHA5lm7kiArrXPh6TqW5KkI9YVv/edit>