



Jewish Community
Relations Council
MILWAUKEE
JEWISH FEDERATION

June 27, 2022

Statement: Overturning of Roe v. Wade

The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation decries the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization overturning Roe v. Wade. This decision threatens the health and safety of people in Wisconsin and across the country, with the heaviest burden falling on low-income people and communities of color.

The JCRC supports an individual's right to make their own reproductive choices.

Access to safe and affordable health care, including abortions, is essential to uphold the central Jewish value of *pikuach nefesh*, or saving a life. All branches of Judaism permit, and in some cases counsel abortion when a pregnancy threatens the life of the mother. Without federal protection of the right to terminate a pregnancy, Jews may be prohibited from acting in accordance with Jewish law under these circumstances.

The JCRC affirms that different faith traditions vary on how they define the beginning of human life, as well as their guidance on reproductive and health care decisions. It is for precisely this reason that religious freedom requires the protection for all individuals to make these sensitive and personal decisions in accordance with their beliefs.

Further, we are deeply concerned about the broader implications of this ruling on the right to religious freedom and personal liberty—both tenets of constitutional law that the JCRC has long understood to be crucial for the safety and well-being of the Jewish community.

The JCRC will work with our local and national partners to advocate for universal access to safe and affordable reproductive health care, as well as broadly safeguarding our right to religious freedom. May we all gather our strength during this painful moment to ready ourselves for the work that lies ahead.

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