



Dear community,

It is with heavy hearts that we mourn the invalidation of *Roe v. Wade* with the announcement of the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision. The 6-3 opinion, issued by Justice Samuel Alito, has stripped the dearly held Constitutional right for womxn and childbearing people to make decisions about their bodies, and marks a grave day in the movement for reproductive rights. It was our bodies, our careers, and our very lives that hung in the balance as six justices decided our fate. With all due respect given to those justices—two of whom have been accused of sexual violence against women—they decided wrong.

Abortion has always been a divisive issue, even amongst childbearing people. It is one that implicates religious convictions, geohistorical contexts, health policy agendas, and overarching moral and ethical considerations. But no matter where you are from or what you believe, it comes down to whether society trusts a womxn to make her own decision about bringing a child into this world; whether we are comfortable allowing a would-be mother to determine whether the circumstances of her life, or the convictions of her character, are congruent with having a child. Are we, as Americans, truly committed to the ideals of freedom and self-determination as enshrined or implied in the Constitution?

Apparently not.

Epsilon Sigma Iota Sorority, Inc., was founded to support womxn, especially those of African American descent, as they journeyed into a legal profession created by and for white men. In its one hundred and two years of existence, this Sorority has witnessed the ratification of white womxn's right to vote, the Great Depression, the proliferation of Jim Crow and the Ku Klux Klan. It has seen horrors and injustices beyond what we can imagine. But it has also seen *Brown v. Board of Education*, the Civil Rights Movement, the ratification of Black womxn's right to vote in the 1965 Voting Rights Act, the first Black president, the first Black woman vice president and, earlier this year, the confirmation of the first Black woman Supreme Court Justice. Despite all the terrible things womxn of color have endured, we have never stopped waging war against oppression. Through all the things we have seen, we know that the arc of the universe truly does bend toward justice—but not without a fight.

This decision doesn't just affect womxn and childbearing people. Justice Thomas' concurring opinion in *Dobbs* hinted at dismantling access to contraception, the right to same sex relationships and engaging in intercourse for reasons other than procreating, and ultimately, destroying the right to same sex marriage. We are all injured by this opinion, and what's coming next will be far worse.

If you are a womxn, if you are childbearing, if you are LGBTQIA+, this is your sign to register to vote. This is your sign to donate. This is your sign to run for office. We need your voices and we need your votes. It isn't enough to talk about it, post about it, or even cry about it – we need your action.

If you're a man or are masculine identifying, we need your support. Support your womxn pro-choice candidates. Donate to your local abortion-providing clinic. Organize a pro-choice and voting advocacy group. Talk to your male friends about why *Dobbs* was important, how this affects them, and why voting more womxn in office will help this country move forward.

To everyone, men and womxn, we implore you: you have to fight.

In solidarity,

The womxn of Epsilon Sigma Iota Sorority, Inc.