



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Toledo JCRC Statement on Dobbs v. Jackson

Earlier today, the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, holding that there is no longer a federal constitutional right to an abortion. The opinion expressed in Dobbs v. Jackson is one of the most consequential Supreme Court decisions in decades and will transform the landscape of women's reproductive health and religious liberties in America.

Overall, Jews are the most in favor of abortion rights of any U.S. religious group. A 2014 Pew Research poll [found](#) that 83% of American Jews believe that abortion should be legal in all or most cases. And in Jewish Toledo, 89% of respondents to JCRC's inaugural Community Opinion & Policy Survey last year indicated that they support or strongly support a woman's right to choose as ruled by the Supreme Court case Roe v. Wade in 1973. The Jewish community is not a monolith and Jews disagree on many issues. However, compared to most issues, supporting abortion rights is a consensus issue in the American Jewish community.

The widespread support for abortion rights among many Jewish groups and denominations may stem from the fact that, according to nearly every interpretation of Halacha (Jewish law), abortion is permitted in cases when continuing the pregnancy poses a threat to the life of the mother, and that personhood and human rights begin at birth, not at conception. Going forward, abortion rights will be determined by states, unless Congress acts. Nearly half of the states have or will pass laws that ban abortion while others have enacted strict measures regulating the procedure. Most of these states will outlaw abortion even in cases where Halacha requires it. As such, a ruling holding that a fetus is a person effectively elevates one religious viewpoint over others and infringes upon Jewish pregnant individuals' right to follow the tenets of their faith. While certain faith groups have weaponized their religious views on abortion in an attempt to outlaw abortion for all, this Supreme Court ruling constitutes government infringement on our Jewish religious liberties.

JCRC joins the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) in strongly condemning today's Supreme Court ruling. Click [here](#) to read this statement.