



University of South Carolina Law Civil Rights & Engagement Society Statement

Members of CRES and several other undersigned UofSC Law student organizations are devastated that the Supreme Court of the United States has decided to strip away the previously established constitutional right to have an abortion by overturning *Roe v. Wade*. Nearly fifty years of progress have been undone by five judges who do not represent this country's majority opinion. The *Dobbs* decision is a very clear commandeering of the fundamental right to privacy as it is targeted against those with uteruses. This decision has set civil rights progress back decades across the intersectional plane. Justice Clarence Thomas himself stated in his concurrence that the right to same-sex relationships and marriage are now vulnerable. This decision has sown the seeds for irresponsible and reckless damage.

The state of South Carolina will further restrict abortion access to anyone with a uterus. South Carolina's "Fetal Heartbeat and Protection from Abortion Act" interferes with the fundamental right of privacy and the right to one's bodily autonomy. These fundamental rights do not concern the *public* given that medical decisions between a patient and their doctor are a *private* matter. This act is currently blocked by a federal court but the *Dobbs* decision will likely start a chain reaction of restrictive laws in the state.

For the first time in its history, the Supreme Court of the United States has restricted a declared right that was once the law of the land. They have decided to leave abortion rights in the hands of the state and created the possibility for existing rights to be taken away from those being forced to carry. One's right to their bodily autonomy will not be protected due to the Supreme Court's erroneous decision and the state of South Carolina has every intention on banning abortion.

The undersigned members are devastated and angry, but we will not give up the fight. The *Dobbs* decision jeopardizes the physical and mental health of citizens and our freedoms. CRES will continue to educate and advocate civil rights of all individuals in the state of South Carolina and this country.

Signed by,

Civil Rights and Engagement Society

Black Law Students Association

Carolina Equality Alliance

Journal of Law and Education

Law Students of Color Collaborative

Public Interest Law Society

South Carolina Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

Sara Cano Zuleta, *President of Latinx Law Student Association*

Genesis Gonzales, *Vice President of Latinx Law Student Association*

Emma Blakley, *President of Family Law Society*

Danielle Darrow, *Secretary of Family Law Society*

In addition:

“The SCACDL Student Division repudiates the criminalization of abortion because it will undoubtedly act to widen the disproportionate affects of overcriminalization & mass incarceration, and will almost certainly punish vulnerable populations more harshly.

The Supreme Court has now opened the floodgates for legislation prescribing the prosecutions of women, their families, medical professionals, and others who lend support, arguably in any form, to a woman seeking an abortion. Our role now is to stand as defenders against unjust prosecutions and as advocates against the criminalization of abortion.”

Hannah DeMauruce, *President of South Carolina Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers*

Reilly H. Lerner, *Vice President of South Carolina Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers*

“Abortion care is a Treaty Law question- to deny our people that care is a violation of the Treaties, and a direct attack on Tribal Sovereignty. #HonorTheTreaties.”

Holly James, *Co-Founder of the Native American Law Students Association*

Kathryn Myrtle, *Co-Founder of the Native American Law Students Association*