

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
FIFTY-SECOND SENATE
SESSION - 14th Session
DATE - November 16, 2022**

**BILL #5210
THE SIGNATURE OF ASCSU**

NOTICE: A signature to sponsor means that you only wish for the legislation to be heard, a signature to endorse means that you support the contents and/or actions of this legislation.

WRITTEN BY: Ava McCall, Senator, Women and Gender Advocacy Center; Sammy Trout, Senator, College of Liberal Arts, Chair, University Affairs Committee; Robert Long, ASCSU, President; Ariadne Athey, Senator, Student Disability Center.

COLLABORATED WITH:

SPONSORED BY:

ENDORSED BY: Alex Silverhart, Director, Health and Wellness; Elijah Sandoval, ASCSU Vice-President; Adalyn Schumer; Senator, Adult Learners and Veterans Services, Chair, Women Caucus; Kylee Weis, Deputy Director, Basic Needs; Nora Aslan, Associate Senator, Pride Resource Center, Chair, Internal Affairs Committee; Rory Low, Senator, Student Disability Center; Justin Melka, Senator, College of Liberal Arts; Haydyn Deason, Chief of Staff; Grace Crangle, Director, Marketing; Reed Vega, Director, Traditions and Programs; Sabina Gebru, Director, Academics; Adrian Salazar, Chair, Diversity and Inclusion Caucus, Senator, Pride Resource Center; Ava Ayla, Senator, College of Natural Sciences; Zoe Kelly, Associate Senator, Black/African American Culture Center;

Abstract: This bill seeks to endorse the signature of ASCSU on a letter to the members of the 118th US Congress regarding the codification of abortion access.

WHEREAS

The Agnes Scott College's Student Government Association (ASCSGA) has drafted a letter in support of the codification of *Roe v Wade* after its overturning by the United States Supreme Court on June 24, 2022, under Case No. 19-1392, also known as *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*¹; and,

WHEREAS

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The members of that student government wish to have as many signatures of endorsement from Student Governments across the country as possible, and therefore reached out to President Robert Long on October 31st; and,

WHEREAS

It is the President of ASCSU's job to pass along any opportunities to make real, impactful change to the voting bodies of the Associated Students of Colorado State University; and,

WHEREAS

Bills are dedicated to creating an action from the ASCSU Senate, and it is important to have the President of the Associated Students of Colorado State University sign on as a deciding entity for another branch of ASCSU, rather than leave this document to be one lacking the President's signature; and,

WHEREAS

The Supreme Court of ASCSU is not permitted to take a stance on any pieces of action or legislation within the organization and therefore cannot be a signature on this bill; and,

WHEREAS

The Associated Students of Colorado State University is dedicated to advocating for students of all walks of life, including those that are from out of state and from potentially restrictive state governments, as well as students who are disproportionately affected by this decision, like Black, Indigenous, People of Color, gender non-conforming people, disabled people, and low-income individuals and families without the income to travel or fund a medical procedure and all the relatives within that²; and,

WHEREAS

Colorado may currently be a safe-haven state, but our vested interest in unity with other student governments across the country warrants our need to participate in this letter; and,

WHEREAS

A copy of the letter going to the Members of Congress is attached at the bottom of this bill, with a suggested list of grammatical edits that will be sent along with ASCSU's signature upon the passage of this bill; and,

WHEREAS

Any spaces of advocacy, no matter their scope or representation, are inherently political. Taking no stance on this letter is the same as taking a stance against it; and,

WHEREAS

ASCSU passed Resolution #5202, "Dedication to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion" on September 21, 2022, with a 33-0-2 vote dedicating ASCSU to the principles of community and the core value of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion³. This letter falls directly in line with those values; and,

WHEREAS

ASCSU has repeatedly spoken about their wish to represent the students and get things done for the benefit of the student body and the CSU community, and the passage of this bill is following with that goal; and,

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WHEREAS

The date of the signature, if ASCSU votes to add their signature, must be submitted no later than November 28th, 2022; so,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ENACTED

That a vote for this bill is not an official stance on reproductive rights, but is a vote to pass a want this to be voted on in the 118th Congress; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That President Robert Long pass on his signature, combined with the signature of the ASCSU Senate, to the authors of this letter to be sent to Congress, combined with the attached list of suggested grammatical edits that do not change the content of the letter but are merely clerical edits and they are not conditional for ASCSU's signature being attached.

PASSAGE

November 16, 2022
DATE

PRESIDENT ROBERT LONG

DATE

RESOURCES:

- 1.) "United States Supreme Court Opinion on Case #19-1392 - Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization." *Supreme Court*, 24 June 2022, https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/21pdf/19-1392_6j37.pdf.
- 2.) Kirkegaard, Dana. "The Disproportionate Harm of Abortion Bans: Spotlight on Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health." *Center for Reproductive Rights*, 29 Nov. 2021, <https://reproductiverights.org/supreme-court-case-mississippi-abortion-ban-disproportionate-harm/>.
- 3.) Hutton, Sam. "ASCSU Approves Position Appointments, Passes Legislation." *The Rocky Mountain Collegian*, Rocky Mountain Student Media Corporation, 22 Sept. 2022, <https://collegian.com/articles/news/2022/09/category-news-ascsu-approves-position-appointments-passes-legislation/>.

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Dear [insert members of 118 congress]

We, the Student Government Associations of (insert number) colleges and universities¹ in the United States wrote this letter to support the codification of Roe V. Wade, and the continued protection of contraceptives, access to reproductive healthcare, and legal reproductive rights.

As the leaders and representatives of more than [insert amount of collective student bodies], it is our duty to engage and resist the social inequities and injustices of our times. As leaders of the future, we must demand that our future constituents' rights are established and codified now. We ask you to take our voices and following statements with the highest regard and consideration.

We first want to highlight why access to abortion, contraceptives, and reproductive care concerns students in particular. The overturning of Roe V. Wade impacts students and education in significant ways. Colleges and universities will take a direct hit from students transferring to schools in states that have abortion access²; the amount of students going to these universities will also lower due to students not applying to or transferring out of schools in low-access or no-access states³. In this way, the targeting of students that menstruate and/or have the ability to reproduce shows an inequitable favor for those students who do not have these abilities, thus further driving the segregation of who has access to higher education.

College enrollment will decrease, especially for Black and Brown women who already have a low educational attainment percentage and/or low economic status⁴. Poor students in states with heavy restrictions on abortion access will have no choice but to complete a pregnancy that they can not afford, or rather, a pregnancy that this Nation will not support financially, medically or mentally⁵.

Faculty and professors will also be impacted by having little or no access to abortion and reproductive care⁶. Some will not have paid parental leave, and some will not be able to afford to continue in their field when having to pay for medical expenses during pregnancy and postpartum expenses⁷.

¹All Student Government Associations included in this list have voted to be included as co-signers of this letter.

²[How the Overturning of Roe v. Wade May Affect Students' College Decisions](#)

³[New Study Finds 30% Of College Students Would Switch Schools For Abortion Access - NowThis](#)

⁴I. [BRIEF OF AMICI CURIAE ECONOMISTS IN SUPPORT OF RESPONDENTS](#)

II. [State Abortion Bans Will Harm Women and Families' Economic Security Across the US](#)

⁵I. [Unintended Pregnancy and Its Adverse Social and Economic Consequences on Health System: A Narrative Review Article - PMC](#)

II. [States with the toughest abortion laws have the weakest maternal supports, data shows](#)

III. [Institute of Medicine \(US\) Committee on Unintended Pregnancy: Brown SS, Eisenberg L, editors. The Best Intentions: Unintended Pregnancy and the Well-Being of Children and Families. Washington \(DC\): National Academies Press \(US\); 1995. 3. Consequences of Unintended Pregnancy. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK232137/>](#)

⁶[What the 'Roe v. Wade' Reversal Means for Educators, Schools, and Students](#)

⁷[What the 'Roe v. Wade' Reversal Means for Educators, Schools, and Students](#)

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This decision impacts more than just students and higher education more broadly; it impacts every person with a uterus, those who rely on the struggling foster care system, poor and rural lives, the physical and mental health of such livelihoods, and the finances, opportunities, upward mobility, life longevity, the other factors that intersect with so much more parts of our lives.

Some states now only allow abortion up to six weeks following conception. This gives people little time to even realize they are pregnant. Some states have banned abortion in cases of incest and rape. Even outside of these restrictions, it is essential to preserve or reinstate bodily autonomy for all people. These laws are extremely dangerous, cruel, and have been created with the intent of controlling bodies. These laws, furthermore, perpetuate an inequitable overlooking of those whose access to satisfactory healthcare is dismal to begin with.

Furthermore, this ruling undermines the United States' First Amendment. The First Amendment's Free Exercise Clause protects "citizens' right to practice their religion as they please, so long as the practice does not run afoul of a "public morals" or a "compelling" governmental interest"⁸. Since some practiced religions include the ability to receive an abortion in certain situations⁹, illegalizing abortion is an attack on ones' right to practice their religion, and therefore an attack on the First Amendment.

The overturning of *Roe V. Wade* is a *physical* assault on women, on transgender and gender non-conforming individuals, on underserved and poor communities, on Black and Brown communities, and on human rights. This is an assault on the values of the United States of America and the freedoms that we attribute to this nation; being a Nation that prides itself on being *the land of the free* via democratic procedure.

We ask you to introduce and pass legislation that ensures access and protection of the legal acquisition and possession of contraceptives, satisfactory reproductive care, and the capacity to exercise such rights under the protection of medical and governmental realms. We urge you to codify *Roe V. Wade*. We urge you to protect the right to choose *freely*.

⁸[First Amendment and Religion | United States Courts.](#)

⁹ Depending on the religion and how one practices their religion, this ranges.

- I. [The Demise of Roe v Wade Undermines Freedom of Religion | ACS](#)
- II. [Judaism and Abortion](#)
- III. [Do Abortion Bans Violate Jews' Religious Rights? | June | 2022 | The Jewish Experience | Brandeis University](#)

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Once again, we thank you for taking the time to acknowledge the concerns and needs of students around our nation. We hope you will take this message into account and consider our voices when making future decisions regarding reproductive justice and access.

Signed,

Agnes Scott College Student Government Association

THAT THIS LEGISLATION SHALL BE FORWARDED TO:

Rick Miranda, Interim President of Colorado State University; The new President of Colorado State University; Tony Frank, Chancellor of the Colostate System; Blanche Hughes, Vice President of Student Affairs; Kauline Cipriani, Vice President for Inclusive Excellence; Casey Malsam, Interim Director of the Women and Gender Advocacy Center; Jasmine Paul, Agnes Scott College Student Government Association President; Lumina Albert, Executive Director, CSU Center for Ethics and Human Rights;

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COMMITTEE'S REVIEWED:**

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MONETARY? Y/N**