

## Resolution

**Whereas**, the Supreme Court of the United States of America overturned Roe v. Wade June 24<sup>th</sup> 2022, taking away federal protection for medical reproductive rights across the country.

**Whereas**, 15 states implemented abortion restrictions after Roe v. Wade was overturned, resulting in limited access to abortion in the case of a pregnancy

**Whereas**, currently, Wisconsin bans abortion past 22 weeks of gestation, with required waiting periods and parental consent for minors, and includes no exceptions for rape and incest.

**Whereas**, according to Harvard School of Public Health, restricting access to safe and legal abortions does not lower the abortion rates, but increases the rate of illegal, unsafe abortion practices along with death rates from these practices.

**Whereas**, according to Planned Parenthood, before the legalization of abortion, 17% of death related to pregnancy and childbirth were caused by unsafe abortion practices and after the Roe v. Wade decision in 1973, only 0.3% of pregnancy related deaths were caused from abortion complications.

**Whereas**, access to medical reproductive rights allows women to finish school, pursue higher education, and participate in the workforce at higher rates for all social classes, enabling them to reach their full potential and effectively participate within society.<sup>3</sup>

**Whereas**, Duke University conducted a study that estimates the pregnancy mortality rate in the case of a total abortion ban in the US, pregnancy-related deaths would increase by 7%. In the years after a ban, total deaths would increase 21% for all populations. Populations that would be most affected include Non-Hispanic Black people, who would experience a 33% increase mortality. These numbers do not include mortality estimates if unsafe practices increase due to limited access to abortion resources.

**Whereas**, restricting access to abortion services, according to United Nations (UN) Human Rights Chief Michelle Bachelet, is a human rights violation that contributes to gender inequality and violates the right to health that supports bodily autonomy.<sup>6</sup>

**Whereas**, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women calls for the American states to legalize abortion practices and remove punishment for people who receive the procedure.<sup>6</sup>

**Whereas**, legal and safe access to abortion reduces unwanted and underage pregnancy, and pregnancy mortality.<sup>6</sup>

**Whereas**, according to Pew Research center, 61% of US citizens believe that abortion should be legal in all or most cases.

**Whereas**, 74% of people aged 18-29 support legal abortion in all cases, one of the age groups that would be most affected by a ban.

**Therefore it be resolved,** the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point Student Government Association supports the access to medical reproductive rights and bodily autonomy for people across our campus, within Wisconsin, and across the United States.

**Therefore it be further resolved,** we support the passing of federal and state protection for medical reproductive services such as abortion and support the freedom to choose as a human right for people across the country.

**Therefore be it further resolved,** that the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point calls on state and federal legislators to advocate on behalf of its citizens for their right to legal and accessible abortion services to support gender equality.

**Therefore be it finally resolved,** upon the passing of this resolution, it shall be sent to: Constitution and Handbook Revision Subcommittee Margaret Kubek, Wausau Steering Committee Miranda Gentry-Siegel, University Staff Council Co-Chair Marshall, University Personnel Development Committee Chair Ish Odogba, University Affairs Committee Anna Cromwell, Marshfield Steering Committee Char Sandy Neumann and Laura Lee, Information Technology Council Chair Tim Krause, Graduate Council Chair Cathy Scheder, General Education Committee Samantha Kaplan, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity Policy Committee Sarah Manasreh, Curriculum Committee Chair Yan Liao , Academic Staff Council Chair Emily Wahlquist, Academic Affairs Committee Chair Dan Graf, Common Council Vice Chair Jess Bowers, Common Council Chair Kristi Roth, Vice Chancellor Al Thompson, Provost Marty Loy, Vice Chancellor Pratima Gandhi, Vice Chancellor Chris Richards, Chief of Staff Rob Manzke, Chancellor Thomas Gibson, Mayor Mike Wiza, State Representative Katrina Shankland, State Representative Nancy VanderMeer, State Representative Scott Krug, State Representative Kevin Peterson, State Representative Patrick Snyder, State Representative John Spiros, State Senator Patrick Testin, State Senator Joan Ballweg, State Senator Jeny Petrowski, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Till Underly, Senator Ron Johnson, Senator Tammy Baldwin, Governor Tony Evers, President Joe Biden

Sponsors: Senator Witt, Senator Young, Speaker of the Senate Scheder, Head Justice McNamara,

Authors: Student Health Director Fritz

1 "Abortion Laws by State." *Center for Reproductive Rights*, 25 Aug. 2022, <https://reproductiverights.org/maps/abortion-laws-by-state/>.

2 Hartig, Hannah. "About Six-in-Ten Americans Say Abortion Should Be Legal in All or Most Cases." *Pew Research Center*, Pew Research Center, 14 July 2022, <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2022/06/13/about-six-in-ten-americans-say-abortion-should-be-legal-in-all-or-most-cases-2/>.

3 Langer, Ana. "The Negative Health Implications of Restricting Abortion Access." *News*, 13 Dec. 2021, <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/features/abortion-restrictions-health-implications/>.

- 4 "Roe v. Wade: Its History and Impact - Planned Parenthood." *Planned Parenthood*, Planned Parenthood, Jan. 2014,  
[https://www.plannedparenthood.org/uploads/filer\\_public/c6/59/c65961ce-447c-48e1-b315-79bfac151e42/abortion\\_roe\\_history.pdf](https://www.plannedparenthood.org/uploads/filer_public/c6/59/c65961ce-447c-48e1-b315-79bfac151e42/abortion_roe_history.pdf).
- 5 Stevenson, Amanda Jean. "The Pregnancy-Related Mortality Impact of a Total Abortion Ban in the United States: A Research Note on Increased Deaths Due to Remaining Pregnant." *Demography*, Duke University Press, 1 Dec. 2021,  
<https://read.dukeupress.edu/demography/article/58/6/2019/265968/The-Pregnancy-Related-Mortality-Impact-of-a-Total>.
- 6 "US Abortion Debate: Rights Experts Urge Lawmakers to Adhere to Women's Convention | | 1UN News." *United Nations*, United Nations, 1 July 2022,  
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/07/1121862>.