



June 24, 2022

Dear Community and Friends of SARC,

Like many of you, we at the Sexual Assault Resource Center (SARC) are infuriated by the Supreme Court's overruling of *Roe v. Wade* and *Casey*—and a reversal of nearly a half-century of precedent, ending federal constitutional protections for abortion, and most importantly, choice and access to sexual and reproductive health care.

This decision means that abortion will not be available in large swaths of the country—as of TODAY—to the point of people meeting civil or criminal charges for engaging in their own health and reproductive care. This is a heartbreaking day.

SARC will continue to support folks impacted by sexual violence by supporting individual choice after a sexual assault and providing *all options* to all folks, in an equal, compassionate, and non-judgmental manner. Our 24-hour support line is 503-640-5311 or toll-free at 888-640-5311 for people who are needing support.

We understand that Oregon's access to abortion and reproductive rights is not currently being threatened because of strong, robust frameworks that outline this absolute right in our state. But like this unprecedented and shocking disruption to constitutional rights by the SCOTUS, we know laws can change.

Prepare yourself and your community. This decision makes it clear that the Supreme Court has entered dangerous territory and opened the floodgates with more than half of the states across the country poised to ban abortion—or with trigger laws, immediately banned abortion with this horrific SCOTUS decision—subsequently ripping the power away from an estimated 36 million people who can become pregnant to have the power to control their own bodies, lives, and futures.

SARC understands that rape can happen to anyone. And oppressed communities are disproportionately impacted and experience more barriers to accessing support resources. We know that sexual violence is one of the most life-impacting consequences of oppression, and that people who are most affected by sexual violence—Black, Latinx, and Indigenous communities, and other people of color, folx who have little to no access to financial resources, are isolated due to immigration status, with disabilities, and are trans or gender non-conforming—will be most harmed by this overruling of the right to abortion and access to reproductive healthcare. This is a clear result of the legacy of systemic sexism, homophobia, racism, classism, ableism, and many more -isms in this United States of America.

This is a critical moment in our time. **So, what can be done?**



- We all must **hold those in power accountable** for actions by organizing and explicitly telling our local, state, and national leaders that reproductive and sexual health rights are not negotiable.
 - Activate in public and personal protest to ensure personal power, reproductive and sexual health rights are communicated, heard, and absolutely recognized.
- Vote for candidates who will uphold and protect sexual and reproductive rights, and who center solutions on historically oppressed communities.
- Follow & support local and national reproductive organizations and abortion funds—check out and uplift Northwest Abortion Access Fund, Cascades Abortion Support Collective
- Use shared hashtags when posting to social media: #AbortionisHealthcare, #BansOffOurBodies, #ReproductiveRights
- We must **educate** ourselves, our families, friends, and those we influence on the intersectionality of these issues:

“among those of us who share the goals of liberation and a workable future for our children, there can be no hierarchies of oppression.”

—Audre Lorde

- And we must **stand with and take the lead from communities most impacted** by this overruling to create change and shift the culture in which these unjust systems were created.
- Also, we encourage you to **pledge your action** by supporting local and national sexual and reproductive health rights organizations through your physical or financial support.
 - Pledge to fight for justice at Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon
 - Contribute to the Oregon Reproductive Health Equity Fund, administered by Seeding Justice

Most of all—take care of yourself, you are not alone. And, as for 45 years, SARC is here to support you.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brandy Selover', is written in a cursive style.

Brandy Selover, Executive Director
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