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**The Personal Is Political:
National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis Decries Today's Supreme Court Ruling**

For over 127 years, National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis has worked to improve the lives of women, children, and families. We are gravely concerned that, as expected, the Court today wiped out 50 years of precedent and the ability of people who will become pregnant to make decisions for themselves and their futures. It is cruel, harmful, and shameful.

As a women's organization, we know just how critical it is that people have access to the full range of reproductive healthcare services and that includes abortion. As a faith-based organization, we understand just how dangerous it is to let the religious beliefs of some influence public policy that makes medical decisions for all.

Nancy Litz, NCJWSTL Board President stated, "This unfortunate decision – and the state legislative actions that will almost certainly follow – forces an extremist minority viewpoint into the most intimate decisions of American women and their families. It also overrides the Constitutional principle of freedom of religion by prioritizing the beliefs of one faith tradition above all others."

By overturning Roe vs. Wade, the Court has prioritized the life of the fetus over the pregnant person, a violation of both Jewish law and tradition and of American religious liberty. This decision has opened the door to anti-abortion lawmakers in Missouri to keep pushing more brutal abortion bans that disregard the human rights and bodily autonomy of millions of people. Due to trigger laws, Missouri now has a near-complete ban on abortion, including in cases of rape and incest. The law allows for abortions only in medical emergencies that immediately threaten a pregnant person's life or will create "irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function."

Our work will continue as we fight for access for all.

Ellen Alper, CEO, stated that "Since 1895, NCJWSTL has been fighting for individual and civil rights for women, children, and families in our community and throughout the country. This decision will not stop us from continuing this fight to ensure everyone has access to the vital health care they need, when they need it, free from stigma, shame, and criminalization — no matter how long it takes. Denial of the right to bodily autonomy is unacceptable, plain and simple."

National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis is committed to creating a world where all people, regardless of race, class, gender, sexuality, ability, or immigration status, have the right to build their families and live their lives with dignity. Our Jewish experience tells us that our reproductive freedoms are integrally bound to our religious liberty; we are committed to advancing the goals of reproductive justice so that every person can make their own moral and faith-informed decisions about their body, health, and family. We support a world where people respect other people's personal decisions around parenthood and pregnancy—whether those decisions involve giving birth, putting a child up for adoption, having an abortion, or choosing not to have children at all.

NCJWSTL will continue working with our coalition partners to help increase access for all people in need of reproductive health services. We support the freedom to decide and have established a women's emergency fund to assist those in need of help. [Click here](#) to donate to that special tribute fund, and designate Women's Emergency Services Fund (WES). For more information, please contact NCJWSTL at (314) 993.5181 or go to <https://ncjwstl.org/donate/donate-now>.

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NCJWSTL is inspired by Jewish values to advance social and economic justice for all women, children, and families.