

Governor Phil Murphy

Governor Murphy Delivers Remarks on News Reports of Supreme Court's Decision to Overturn Roe v. Wade

05/3/2022

Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

Before I begin, I want to briefly address the reports that the U.S. Supreme Court has voted to overturn the long-standing precedents of both Roe v Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey and eliminate the federal protection of a woman's reproductive freedom.

Quite frankly, while enraging, this news is hardly surprising. This is exactly why we took the step we did earlier this year in enshrining every New Jerseyan's full reproductive rights into state law.

When I stood with lawmakers in October 2020 to introduce the Reproductive Freedom Act, it was just six days after Donald Trump selected Amy Coney Barrett to replace Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the Supreme Court.

It was as clear then as it is now that this Court, stacked with Trump appointees, could not be trusted to protect women's reproductive rights.

If the Court takes this awful step, this decision will have no impact on New Jersey state law or the full right to reproductive freedom under our state law. This remains fully intact, because here in New Jersey, instead of hoping for the best, we prepared ourselves for the worst.

Throughout my governorship, I have fought for a single, basic principle: this must be a decision made between a woman and her doctor, period.

If a right-wing Supreme Court cannot recognize this simple truth, our elected officials in Washington must take matters into their own hands.

Congress must immediately pass federal legislation protecting the reproductive rights of all Americans, everywhere across this nation. If that means reforming the filibuster, then we need to reform the filibuster.

We must ensure that every American woman has the freedom that every New Jersey woman has.

And if this Congress won't protect reproductive freedom, America needs to elect a Congress in November that will.

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