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Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention Statement on Decision in Dobbs V. Jackson Women’s Health Organization

The Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention embodies a group of scientists dedicated to improving pregnancy outcomes through research and education. The recent Supreme Court decision in the Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization case overturns Roe v. Wade and returns decision-making regarding abortion rights and restrictions to the individual state level. As a result, many women, especially those living in underserved communities, will not have access to the necessary information or reproductive healthcare they need.

Health care professionals bear an ethical and legal obligation to provide complete, accurate, unbiased information to their patients, including pregnant women who need to make decisions about their reproductive health.

The recent Supreme Court ruling will restrict a woman’s ability to access the information or reproductive healthcare that they need based upon the state where they reside. Consequently, pregnant women who learn of a catastrophic birth defect, whose pregnancy or own health may be in danger, or for other reasons may seek alternate means to terminate their pregnancy, including unregulated herbal supplements or use of non-prescription medications. It is important for individuals to understand the potential effects of all medications taken during pregnancy and only use those medications prescribed by their health care provider to prevent undue harm to themselves or adverse effects on prenatal development.

The Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention supports the right to access unbiased information about their reproductive health and believes that decisions about reproductive health should be based upon open discussions between the patient and their healthcare provider. The Society urges policy makers to enact legislation that will protect the right to access the necessary services and information to make informed decisions on reproductive health in conjunction with healthcare professionals and protect these individuals from any reprisals.