



Speak Out Now

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Defending Our Rights Depends On Us

At a time when women around the world are winning the right to access legal abortion, on June 24, the U.S. Supreme Court decided to turn the clock back to the 1970s.

Five justices, lifetime permanent political appointees, who are not accountable to us, have decided that there is no federally guaranteed right for women and pregnant people to have an abortion. They are willing to force women who have been raped, or are victims of incest, or face a threat to their lives, or who know they can't provide for a child, to have that child.

This is an attack on a woman's right to choose, on women's health, and on women's lives and futures. It will come down hardest on poor and working class women, especially women of color, and women in rural areas, all of whom already face limited abortion and other healthcare access.

The overturn of Roe is part of a broad right-wing assault on our rights, using the courts and the state legislatures as their weapons. Those politicians and their wealthy backers are organizing to take back many of the rights that were won in the streets through massive mobilizations, over decades. Those struggles forced the politicians to respond and to legalize abortion. But the rights won under the Roe decision have been under attack since the day after the Supreme Court ruled in 1973. And this is not an exception. Legislative and judicial rulings have been reversed once the mobilizations have stopped.

This overturn of Roe v. Wade is not an exception, but part of a concerted attack on many fronts. We are seeing legislation and court decisions suppressing voting rights, enacting new immigration restrictions, removing health and safety and environmental protections, attacks on LGBTQ+ people, and the

imposition of restrictions on the educational content taught in our schools.

We are told we live in a democracy — but a democracy for whom? There is no guarantee of your rights unless you are part of the 1%. This was made very clear to us all by the policies of the politicians and bosses during the Covid pandemic.

We are told we can count on elections and legislation to protect our rights, but how could we believe this? Look at the politicians response to the murder of George Floyd — lots of talk but no action, as police murders of Black people rise. Facing the climate catastrophe — lots of talk but the war in Ukraine is used to justify increased production of fossil fuels. We won't win or protect our rights by electing Democrats or through their courts. We can only win and keep our rights by mobilizations of our own forces. Or until we change the whole system.

In the face of this latest assault we must respond. The Supreme Court justices, and the politicians who support their immoral decisions, must be made to hear our anger and feel our resolve. They must face consequences for acting against our interests.

Mobilizing in the streets is the first way to show our determination — to ourselves and to others. But demonstrations of our anger will not be enough to convince those who are attacking us to change. We need to take that anger and determination to our workplaces, schools and neighborhoods. We need to organize as broadly as we can, to mobilize all our forces and set them loose!

We are the majority, and when we decide to act, we can force the politicians to reverse course. We are the ones who have the right to decide our future, and to decide if and when we will have children.

Will women have the right to abortions in the future? It is up to us and what we do.



Join us for a discussion about the Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade and what to do next...

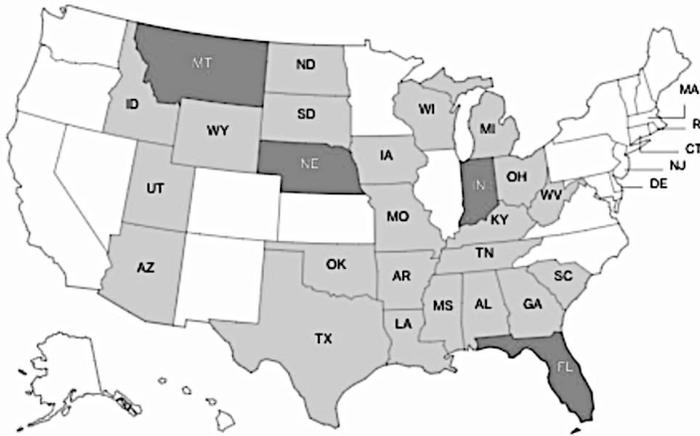


Roe Overturned — Where are We Now?

Abortion's Future

Restrictions, bans could take effect in 26 states if Roe is overturned

■ Certain to take effect ■ Likely to take effect



Source: Guttmacher Institute

Now that Roe has been overturned, abortion is banned or restricted to the point of inaccessibility in more than 20 states, where trigger laws have been put in place.

This means people will be forced to give birth against their will, even in cases of rape, incest, and when the life of the pregnant person is in danger if they carry the fetus to term. Many will have illegal and unsafe abortions. People who have abortions and those who assist them, in states such as Oklahoma and Texas, may face criminal charges in the process.

The decision to overturn Roe v. Wade makes what was already severely restricted access to abortion services much worse. This will impact those who don't have the resources to travel to another state and may not have access to doctors, nurses, friends or relatives who can help them navigate the process of ordering abortion pills. The policies will overwhelmingly harm the working class, people of color, those who have suffered from rape or incest, and people who choose abortion to care for their family's well-being, avoiding deeper poverty.

With Roe v. Wade overturned, many more women and pregnant people will die, with the death rate highest among people of color:

- Already in the U.S. women are 14 times more likely to die from giving birth than from having an abortion.
- Black women in Mississippi are 118 times more likely to die from giving birth than from having an abortion.

Many have dubbed this new era “The New Jane Crow,” a time when those with wealth continue to have access while the poor and people of color in states where abortion is banned suffer increased poverty and death.

Abortion restrictions will further increase the distance patients must travel to receive care, and strain the resources of remaining clinics. Over time, the clinics in states where abortion is illegal may relocate to states where it is legal, or near their borders, so some will have access to services. This will increase the pressure on nearby states where abortion is legal to expand their capacity to accommodate more patients.

Yet in many states it is now illegal for patients and those who support them to seek abortion services outside of their state, where they can face large fines or jail time. In addition, abortion clinics near impacted states will become further overburdened by the surge in patients, pushing some pregnant people further into their pregnancies before being able to receive care.

Women and pregnant people must have access to abortion services at any stage of pregnancy, without apology, to protect their lives and those of their families, as well as their dignity. The decision to overturn Roe v. Wade is a reminder that we cannot surrender our lives to the Supreme Court, to the laws and the whims of the capitalist system. The fight to have legal abortion on demand throughout the U.S. is our urgent task.



Get in touch with us: speakoutsocialists.org