



Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama

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Office of the Bishop

STATEMENT ON SUPREME COURT DECISION *DOBBS V. JACKSON WOMEN'S HEALTH ORGANIZATION*

Today, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a major opinion regarding *Dobbs v. Jackson (Mississippi) Women's Health Organization* effectively overturning its previous 1973 decision known as *Roe v. Wade*. Through ongoing pro-life initiatives, including the March for Life, we have advocated for this outcome for 49 years. We are grateful for and laud the Court for its nuanced opinion.

As a Catholic community, along with many people of good will, we are mindful, as we have always been, of the obligation incumbent upon us to care for one another. The powerful words from God addressed to Jeremiah clearly remind us: "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you..." (cf. Jer 1:5). Advances in biological science clearly underscore the unique dignity of every human life, from the very first moment of conception. It requires an extra effort on our part to sustain and protect life as a gift from God. We, therefore, urge the ongoing accompaniment of families and individuals, especially women and children, both born and unborn.

With this decision, it now will be up to individual state legislatures to regulate abortion as a matter of state public policy. For us, it is time to refocus and expand our energies within the State of Alabama to support all human life, especially the most vulnerable. Today's decision marks a major step forward in constructing a culture of life. Over time, a culture of life becomes a culture of hope that honors and respects all.

Our pathway forward will require us to be even more engaged to ensure that fundamental rights are protected. Partnering with people of good will, we can share the common dream of our founders, that all are imbued by the Creator with unalienable rights, including the right to life. A nation that respects and fosters the right to life is a nation with a bright future. Much work remains to be done. Together, we seek to ensure that all are welcome as sisters and brothers in our human family.