



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NCJW/Essex Decries US Supreme Court Ruling Overturning *Roe*

New Jersey Lawmakers Encouraged to Quickly Pass Legislation
Guaranteeing Access and Equity for Reproductive Rights

LIVINGSTON, NJ, June 24, 2022 – Earlier today, the US Supreme Court ruled to overturn *Roe*, leaving millions of people without the health care they need. NCJW/Essex, a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates focused on issues, including reproductive rights, that improve the lives of women, children and families in Essex County and beyond, issued the following statement:

“Today, the Court 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.

“Every person deserves dignity and respect and the ability to make decisions about their own bodies. Forced pregnancy endangers the lives and well-being of people who will no longer have access to the care they need without having to travel hundreds of miles and pay hundreds or thousands of dollars. The injustice and cruelty of this decision harms those who are already facing barriers to accessing health care, particularly Black, Indigenous and People of Color, immigrants, and those working to make ends meet.

“By overturning *Roe*, the Court has codified one religion into law, a violation of the founding principles of this country and opened the door to anti-abortion lawmakers across the United States to keep pushing for more brutal abortion bans that disregard the human rights and bodily autonomy of millions of people.

“In New Jersey, the right to abortion is guaranteed by the Freedom of Reproductive Choice Act, signed into law by Governor Murphy in January 2022. The Act, however, left major gaps in access for low-income, immigrant and Black and brown communities.

“With Bill A4350, introduced by the New Jersey State Assembly, legislators can now meet this moment and take the lead in reproductive healthcare to address all of the existing gaps in access to abortion care as rights without access are meaningless.

“The legislation will:

- Mandate that insurance plans in New Jersey cover abortion and birth control with no cost sharing or out of pocket costs just like New York, Maine, Illinois, California, Oregon, and Washington have done;

- Codify the NJ Board of Medical Examiners (BME) expansion of medical professionals who can provide abortion care to ensure increased access to abortion care by trained and qualified providers;
- Expands existing state programs that cover birth control and pregnancy-related care to also cover abortion care for those facing financial barriers.

“The National Council of Jewish Women, Essex County Section, calls on our legislators to pass this legislation without delay so that every individual in New Jersey – regardless of where they live, their income, or immigration or insurance status – can access the care they need and make personal decisions about their bodies and their lives. The time is now.”

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About National Council of Jewish Women, Essex County Section

The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) is a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates who turn progressive ideals into action. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW strives for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children, and families and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms. With more than 3,200 members, Essex County Section is the largest of the more than 100 NCJW Sections around the country. The Section was founded in 1912 and maintains offices in Livingston, N.J. For more information, log on to www.ncjwessex.org

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