

Some Comments on Overturn of Roe v. Wade

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While we knew this was coming for weeks given the leaked draft of the decision, the overturning of Roe v. Wade is simply devastating for us at the Ethical Society, for American women in general, and for all Americans who believe in bodily autonomy. What's worse is that this follows other examples of the overlap of sexism and the Supreme Court.

For example, two men in the majority on the Dobbs opinion – Thomas and Kavanaugh – were placed on our highest court despite credible accusations during their confirmation process of sexual harassment and assault. Add to that the fact that Kavanaugh, Gorsuch, and Barrett were appointed by a man who bragged about assaulting women and yet *still* was elected as President. And now it is clear that Kavanaugh, Gorsuch, and Barrett misled the Senate regarding their perspective on the importance of precedent regarding the “settled law” of Roe v. Wade. We must call out the deception of these judges.

We must also challenge the smokescreen of “originalism” facilitating a reactionary sexist agenda pushed by a minority of Americans. Two-thirds of Americans support reproductive rights as outlined in Roe v. Wade. The law should reflect the broad ethical sentiments of today's citizens who demand bodily autonomy and freedom.

We must not let reactionary policies cripple our progress as a nation. Laws must keep up with the times, as reflected by the words of Thomas Jefferson that are etched on the wall of the monument at the tidal basin: "laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths discovered and manners and opinions change, with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times."

Let us work together at the Ethical Society to demand enlightened laws about the bodily autonomy of American women. I look forward to working on this with you as we urge voters to the polls this fall.