



**Latino Action Network Foundation & Latino Action Network:
Joint Position Statement on the National Crisis on Reproductive Rights**

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On Monday, May 2, 2022, [Politico](#) released a leaked draft opinion from the United States Supreme Court for the ongoing case, *Dobbs v Jackson Women’s Health Organization*. This draft opinion speaks to overturning *Roe v Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v Casey*, effectively allowing states to ban abortions. However, it should be made clear that this is merely a draft. A final decision has not been reached and, as such, abortion remains legal.

In light of such news, the Latino Action Network Foundation and Latino Action Network would like to make one thing very clear: we unequivocally support the rights to reproductive choice and freedom for all, including the right to an abortion. As such, we applaud the state of New Jersey for implementing the Freedom of Reproductive Choice Act, which was signed into law by Governor Murphy in January 2022. Regardless of the outcome of *Dobbs v Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, **the Freedom of Reproductive choice Act has codified the right to an abortion within New Jersey’s state law.**

However, this is not enough. With this impending threat to *Roe v Wade*, it is [estimated](#) that at least 26 states are certain or likely to ban abortion if *Roe* is overturned. Abortion is a fundamental health right for pregnant people and should be recognized as such at the federal level. Latinas face economic, cultural, and linguistic barriers to accessing reproductive health care. Latinas are hardest hit by the gender wage gap, making [\\$.45 for every \\$1 their white male counterparts make](#). In NJ, [Latino communities were three times more likely to be uninsured](#).

Abortion bans and restrictive abortion legislation have been shown to have a disproportionately [negative impact on low-income pregnant people and pregnant people of color](#). This includes those who are Latino/a/x, who have historically been targeted by punitive reproductive injustices like [forced sterilization of immigrant women in ICE detention centers](#) and [unauthorized birth control trials](#).

And, many fear that abortion restrictions are only the first threat to reproductive rights, with the fear that [emergency contraception and birth control will be attacked next](#). While many states that seek to ban abortion also want to ban access to contraception, access to contraception and the prevention of unwanted pregnancies remain one of the best ways to reduce the number of elective abortions. In addition, contraception has been shown to have various [essential health benefits](#) in addition to pregnancy prevention, such as alleviating various menstrual-related symptoms.

Reproductive freedom must be protected as a legal right. Our state and the federal government must take the necessary steps to make abortion more affordable and accessible for all. As such, LANF and LAN call on New Jersey lawmakers to implement legislation that would enhance abortion accessibility in New Jersey, including measures cut from the Reproductive Freedom Act, introduced in late 2020, which would have addressed affordability issues and barriers to abortion more effectively than the current Freedom of Reproductive Choice legislation.

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