



UNTIL  
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## YWCA Metropolitan Chicago Statement on Overturning of Roe vs. Wade June 24, 2022

Today, the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade and ended 50 years of federal abortion rights. We are deeply saddened and troubled by this decision because we know how critical Roe v. Wade has been in enabling women, especially women of color and economically disadvantaged women, to pursue educational opportunities and participate in the workforce. And even though abortion will remain legal in the state of Illinois, we are very concerned about women’s progress and rights across the United States both now and in the future. Undoubtedly, this decision will further exacerbate longstanding racial and reproductive health inequities.

The YWCA has championed reproductive rights for more than 50 years, and we will persist in this work. YWCA Metropolitan Chicago will continue to stand proudly with our YWCA sisters across the country, as well as community members and supporters in Chicago, to ensure that every woman has access to comprehensive health care, including abortion and contraceptives.

### MORE THAN 50 YEARS OF YWCA SUPPORT FOR ABORTION RIGHTS

**1967** YWCA adopted this statement at its 1967 convention:  
“A woman has the right to choose in the matter of abortion based on her own religious and ethical beliefs and her physician’s guidance.”

**1970** YWCA voted to support the **REPEAL OF ANY LAW THAT PROHIBITS** abortions performed by a licensed physician.

**1979** YWCA voted to **SUPPORT PUBLIC FUNDING** for abortion, pre-abortion, and post-abortion care.

**1988** YWCA adopted **HEALTHCARE** — including abortion and other reproductive health care — as one of five national policy priorities.

**1991** YWCA added advocating **AGAINST PARENTAL NOTIFICATION** and consent laws to its national policy priorities.

**2003** The National YWCA Public Policy Program included support for abortion rights in its review of “**matter of public policy that are important in the realization of the mission and goals of YWCA.**”

**2017** YWCA USA continued to demonstrate support for reproductive health care — including abortion — in its [Dietrich Affordable Care Act Fact Sheet](#). YWCA USA also issued various press statements to this effect (including [Planned Parenthood Statement](#), [Another Attack on Women’s Reproductive Health](#) and [Executive Order Further Erodes Access to Reproductive Healthcare](#)).

**2019** YWCA USA led a [coalition letter](#) which specifically calls for Congress to prioritize women’s health, including reproductive health.

**2021** YWCA USA led an [amicus brief](#) joined by 3 national partners in the case of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, which highlighted the impact abortion bans would have on young women, particularly young women of color. Read our [press release](#).

**2022** YWCA USA’s CEO Margaret Mitchell issued a [statement](#) marking the historic nomination of a Black woman to the Supreme Court of the United States and highlighting YWCA USA priorities, including the “protection of abortion rights”.

**eliminating racism  
empowering women  
ywca**