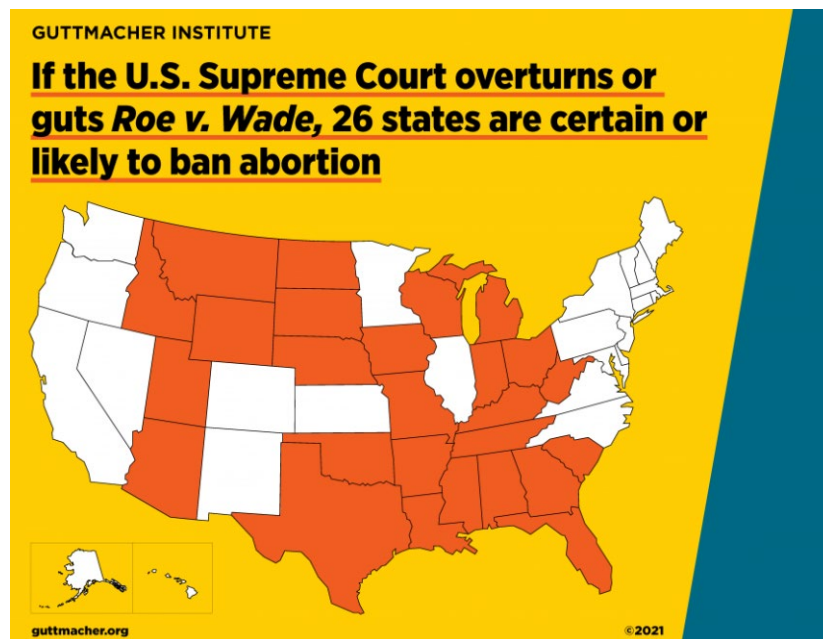


Potential Abortion Ban Threatens Women's Rights

Overturning Roe v. Wade would set a harmful precedent for laws protecting vulnerable populations.

By Ashleigh Moonsamy

Abortion rights around the country are at risk after a Supreme Court [leak by Politico](#) exposed the anticipated overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. If passed, abortion legislation will occur at the state level. Twenty-six states are already planning to implement stricter abortion laws and 13 of those states have trigger laws in place that will activate immediately if *Roe* is overturned.



Roe was established in 1973 because the Supreme Court ruled that the right to continue or end a pregnancy belongs to the individual, not the government. Abortion is constitutional because the right to have “liberty” mentioned in the Fourteenth Amendment includes the right to have an abortion. *Roe* affirms that people should have bodily autonomy because it is a human right, regardless of moral or religious views.

Overturning *Roe* would set a dangerous precedent for the rights of vulnerable populations in general. It may [lead to overturning other cases](#) that protect people who need same-sex marriage ([Obergefell v. Hodges](#)) and interracial marriage ([Loving v. Virginia](#).) Like abortion, these constitutional laws fall under the Fourteenth Amendment’s right to have personal liberty. If one of these cases is overturned, this could lead to banning similar fundamental rights.

Abortion is not just a reproductive issue; it is a health care issue. Banning abortion would harm the overall well-being of women across the country. Specifically, minorities and poor populations living in red states would suffer because they cannot afford to travel to another state to get an abortion. Some states are [even pushing for legislation](#) that will ban seeking abortions in another state. On the other hand, states such as Connecticut plan to [implement laws](#) that would allow women to countersue a state that attempts to punish them for traveling to get an abortion.

The damage to minority and poor women would not stop with travel bans. These populations also often do not receive adequate sex education, which leads to unsafe sex and unwanted pregnancies. Additionally, after the baby is born, working populations struggle to care for the child because it is expensive to feed and clothe a newborn. We also do not have paid maternal leave mandated at the federal level in the United States, nor do we have affordable childcare. Therefore, for many women, it is unfeasible to have a child and work at the same time. Banning abortion will effectively punish working women by forcing them to carry unwanted pregnancies to term.

The anticipated overturning of *Roe* is an attack against women across the country. According to Pew Research Center, most Americans (61%) support legal abortion. Why is the Supreme Court planning to rule against our beliefs? This contention signals a larger problem: our government officials are not representing us. To make your voice heard, contact your state representatives, and express your support of *Roe*. You can also visit the links below to donate to reproductive rights organizations.

Donation pages of reproductive rights organizations:

- [ACLU](#)
- [Center for Reproductive Rights](#)
- [WRRAP](#)

For more information about abortions:

- [Planned Parenthood](#)
- [Amnesty.org](#)

Word Count: 498

Visuals references:

- [*Guttmacher Institute*](#): Published October 2021; revised April 2022.
 - Graph displaying which states are certain or likely to ban abortion if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned.