

## **NCAWA Statement on the Recent Supreme Court Decision in Dobbs v. Jackson**

August 2022

Over the last 44 years since our founding, the North Carolina Association of Women Attorneys has dedicated itself to promoting the rights of women under the law. In 1979, resolving to support reproductive freedom for all women, NCAWA adopted a resolution to endorse the right of women to exercise their reproductive freedom to carry their pregnancies to term with adequate prenatal care or to have an abortion. In September 2021, NCAWA joined more than 30 organizations of women lawyers and law students in signing an amicus brief in support of respondents in the U.S. Supreme Court case of Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health. NCAWA is extremely saddened and disappointed by the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court on June 24, 2022 in overturning the nearly 50 years of U.S. Supreme Court precedent set by Roe v. Wade. We are fearful of the clear attack we are seeing on substantive due process and individual rights previously recognized by this Nation's highest Court. The freedom and autonomy of one's body is a basic individual right that empowers a person to choose when, if, and how to start or add to their family. This decision will undoubtedly result in women being forced into bearing children that are unwanted or unintended, or risk civil and criminal penalties under the state laws that are anticipated to be passed by state legislatures. Further, this decision will disproportionately impact economically disadvantaged and minority women, expanding the economic disadvantages of those groups. Of the utmost concern is the inevitable rise in maternal deaths that will result from this decision. Data prior to Roe v. Wade demonstrates that women will continue to seek abortions through unsafe and dangerous options. NCAWA, however, is not deterred. We will continue to be resolute in our fight for the rights of women under the law as we have been fighting for such basic rights since our inception in 1978. We will continue our advocacy efforts in hopes of reversing this dangerous precedent, providing support to women who choose to exercise their right to seek an abortion, and advocating for women to receive the safe reproductive medical care they deserve as free and equal citizens.