



FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

The nonpartisan public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Florida

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Statement on U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*

TALLAHASSEE – On June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court of the United States issued a landmark ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, overturning *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. In response, the bishops of Florida issued the following statement:

"We are deeply heartened to see that the U.S. Supreme Court has overturned *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* in its landmark opinion, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. The most influential abortion case in decades, *Dobbs* is a decision by our nation's highest court to allow states to protect women and their children from abortion through all stages of pregnancy.

"The legacy of *Roe* and *Casey* has been the imposition of an abortion regime that made our nation one of the most liberal of Western democratic countries on abortion. As a result, over 62 million children nationwide and 3,368,475¹ children in Florida were denied the opportunity to live outside the womb since 1973. Mothers, fathers, and families have suffered under the shadow of *Roe*. Now, decision-making on abortion policy is once again in the hands of the American people and their elected officials. This is a momentous step towards establishing a more robust culture of life.

"The *Dobbs* case marks a new era for the work of the Church and all those who strive to protect children in the womb. We remain committed to ministries of service that accompany expectant mothers facing difficult or unintended pregnancies. We strive to continue to build a society that empowers women so that mothers are truly supported throughout pregnancy and beyond. A truly pro-life culture values women for their unique contributions and special gifts in all spheres of life, while supporting them in their roles as mothers. We wholeheartedly promote the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' initiative [Walking with Moms in Need](#) as well as the [Florida Pregnancy Care Network](#) to provide life-affirming care for women.

"We also remain passionate in the collective effort to change hearts and minds in Florida so that abortion is unthinkable, and to advocate for the legal protection of human life in the womb accompanied by profound care for mothers and their children. *Roe*'s reversal is the long-awaited righting of a grievous wrong, and we look ahead with grateful hope as we seek to bring the light of Christ and the Gospel of Life to our state of Florida."

¹ <https://www.johnstonsarchive.net/policy/abortion/usa/ab-usa-FL.html>, accessed on May 20, 2022.

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The Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops is an agency of the Catholic Bishops of Florida. It speaks for the Church in matters of public policy and serves as liaison to the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government. The archbishop and bishops of the seven (arch)dioceses in Florida constitute its board of directors.



"While this decision is what we have been praying for, we know that the issue of abortion will not simply go away. Our ministry to assist women and families will continue. More than ever, we must be attentive to the needs of women facing unplanned and crisis pregnancies — to help them choose life for their child. We need to remember that every situation we face is personal; it comes down to how we treat the person who is right in front of us." — Bishop William A. Wack, CSC, Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee