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Minnesota Alliance on Crime Statement on the Overturning of Roe v. Wade

The Minnesota Alliance on Crime works to connect systems, service providers, and victims of crime to advance the response for all victims of crime. We work to ensure all victims of crime have a trauma-responsive, compassionate experience through the criminal legal system. Our core values as an organization include:

- recognizing that forms of oppression based on race, gender/gender identity, class, ethnicity, nationality, immigration status, disability, age, religion and sexual orientation create a climate of supremacy and ownership that facilitates the use of ongoing violence and victimization;
- standing in solidarity with efforts around the world to end all forms of discrimination, exploitation, victimization, and violence;
- seeking a criminal justice system that is fair and accessible to all crime victims, and where meaningful rights for crime victims are routinely honored.

While we are a non-political and non-partisan organization, the overturning of Roe v. Wade not only puts all crime victims at risk by limiting the rights and protections available to them, but it specifically limits the options sexual assault survivors, incest survivors, and survivors of intimate partner violence have in making decisions about their recovery or leaving their abuser. Furthermore, the decision by the majority justices to overturn legal precedent by specifically discussing future targets including: Griswold (which protected the right to contraception), Lawrence (which invalidated state laws banning sodomy), and Obergefell (which legalized gay marriage nationwide) is highly concerning considering this opens up states to decide to legally discriminate against a group of people already experiencing crime at three times the average rate.

As we know, marginalized groups (Black, Brown, Indigenous, LGBTQ+, and persons with disabilities) experience being victims of crime more frequently, along with also experiencing harsher sentences, less leniency, and more violence in the criminal legal system than their straight, white counterparts. Limiting access to reproductive choice further marginalizes these communities and puts individuals with uteri in precarious situations of forced pregnancy with a rapist or abuser.

In Minnesota reproductive choice is currently a constitutional right, but this is not the case for the majority of this country. MAC stands in solidarity with victims of crime across the US and will continue to advocate on behalf of victims throughout the state. MAC will continue to work to ensure that here in Minnesota victims' rights are protected.

To keep these protections and expand them in Minnesota you need to vote. Vote by mail or in person for the primary election on August 9th and the general election November 8th. For more information and to check your registration: www.sos.state.mn.us/election-administration-campaigns/elections-calendar/. As always, we stand in solidarity with our sister coalitions working to protect children, sexual assault victims/survivors, victims/survivors of intimate partner violence, and indigenous people across the state who are impacted greatly by this ruling.

About the Minnesota Alliance on Crime

The Minnesota Alliance on Crime connects systems, service providers, and victims to advance the response for victims of all crime. MAC is a membership coalition of more than 90 crime victim service providers in Minnesota, including prosecution-based victim/witness programs, community programs, law enforcement agencies, and individuals committed to supporting crime victims. We support our membership through training, technical assistance, resources, policy and legislative initiatives, and networking opportunities.