The Effects of Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health

Elizabeth A. Cullen, J.D., M.P.A. NJHSA Washington Representative July 19, 2022

State of the Law(s)

- Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization
- Overturned nearly a half century of legal precedent protecting the right to abortion care
- Rapidly changing federal and state law landscape (Biden EO, FDA)
- Impacts re access to abortion care, contraception, health care

Facts About Abortion

- Nature of reproductive care changes since *Roe*
- Medication abortion = more than half U.S. abortions
- Majority already mothers
- Severe impacts re access to care for low-income and communities of color

State of the State Laws

- 16 states impacted now
- 7 total bans now (6 in effect)
- Some states (travel, telehealth, Rx)
- Compare Jewish law perspective

Protective State Laws

- 18 states
- Statute, **state constitution**, ballot referendum (e.g., KS in jeopardy)
- Beyond just protecting the right to abortion

Impact on Women's Overall Health

- No access even in cases of rape, sexual assault, incest
- Forcing travel out of state (e.g., OH) leads to later abortions
- Jewish genetic testing implications/Fertility (Frozen Embryos)

Consequences for Providers

- Civil liability-damages (S.B.8-TX)
- Criminal liability
- Extradition
- Anyone who "assists" (e.g., TX)
- Fear (and that is the point)

LOTS of Questions

- Which providers could be held accountable
- Will others providing "assistance?
- Will out-of-state providers treating women who have traveled by held accountable under the other state's laws? Will they be protected by their own state laws?
- Will women be held accountable?
- Impact on availability of contraception?
- What are providers obligated to do in medical emergencies?

Organizations That Are Helping

National Abortion Federation: prochoice.org

Hotline, case management, \$\$, and referral

National Network of Abortion Funds: abortionfunds.org

\$\$ assistance

National Council of Jewish Women: ncjw.org: First birth control clinics, resources and donations

Hadassah: Hadassah.org

National Abortion Federation: 800-772-9100 or Prochoice.org

Largest National, Toll-Free, Multi- Lingual Hotline, U.S. + Canada, 1978	Referrals	Some \$\$ assistance (procedure, hotel, transportation including gas, food)
Accurate Information	"Client Driven" Case Management by LCSWs (regional)	Online Screening Tool

National Abortion Federation: 800-772-9100 or Prochoice.org

No proof of citizenship or legal immigrant documents required	No proof of income required	Does have an income limit
Works with people all over the country	May coordinate travel	Currently: calling earlier (6-8 weeks) seeking help for travel, farther and longer

What are JFS Agencies Doing & Other Ways to Help



Get in Touch

Elizabeth.Cullen@jewishfederations.org