



The Bazelon Center Condemns Today's Supreme Court Decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law released the following statement responding to the Supreme Court's decision today in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*:

Eliminating the constitutional right to an abortion and nearly 50 years of federal protection will have devastating consequences for Americans and their families.

Today's opinion exacerbates an inaccessible healthcare system that is already riddled with barriers to needed treatment, including cost, transportation, and insurance coverage. Approximately 1 in 5 Americans has a mental health disability. People who face barriers to healthcare – people who are low-income, Black people, Indigenous people, and other people of color, immigrants, LGBTQIA+ individuals, people involved with courts and criminal systems, people who live in rural areas – are also people with mental health disabilities.

It is paramount that people with disabilities are heard and their wishes respected, including with respect to bodily autonomy, privacy, and personal decisions about healthcare. However, the wishes of people with disabilities are routinely ignored, and incorrect assumptions are regularly made by medical professionals. Today, the Supreme Court has removed key federal protections for people with disabilities to make their own decisions about their health and their families.

Health, including mental health, is an important factor in a person's decision about whether to continue with a pregnancy. People with mental health disabilities face increased and serious health risks from pregnancy, and the time after childbirth. Suicide and overdose combined are the leading cause of death for people who have recently



given birth. Maternal mental health disorders are the most common complications of pregnancy and childbirth, affecting 1 in 5 pregnant people or new parents.

The Bazelon Center [joins our disability rights partners](#) in opposition to this unjust and harmful opinion. We call on Congress to act now to protect these important rights.

About the Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law: *The Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law protects and advances the civil rights people with mental and developmental disabilities – especially Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) and other historically marginalized populations. We envision a society where our constituents with mental disabilities live with autonomy, dignity, and opportunity in welcoming communities supported by law, policy, and practices that help them reach their full potential. For more information, visit: bazelon.org*