



Borough of Lansdowne

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Magda Byrne
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June 24, 2022

Statement concerning the Supreme Court Decision on *Dobbs vs. Jackson Health*

On June 24, 2022, the Lansdowne community watched as the United States Supreme Court overturned 50 years of settled American law with the decision in *Dobbs vs. Jackson Health*. In this decision, the Supreme Court rejected the idea that the Constitution guarantees women the right to have control over their reproduction and health care choices, including the right to an abortion. Furthermore, the Supreme Court ruled there would be no federal protection for a women's right to an abortion.

We, the elected representatives of Lansdowne Borough, unequivocally denounce this ruling by the Supreme Court. We believe that all residents in Lansdowne have the right to privacy in making their medical decisions and reproductive decisions. While we on Borough Council may not all ascribe individually to all of the same values, we serve and represent the residents of Lansdowne and affirm and believe in the Constitutional rights of everyone. We will continue to uphold our oaths made to support the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and we will continue to advocate for the right to privacy asserted initially in the decision made almost 50 years ago in 1973 by the Supreme Court in *Roe vs. Wade*.

We must have love and concern for all of our community, including the women affected, and others impacted by these difficult decisions. The Supreme Court decision at worst could also result in a return to the banning of abortion and the unintended consequences such as unsterile abortion and the death of the mother. Before *Roe v. Wade* these were sometimes referred to as "back alley" abortions.

In Lansdowne Borough, we support the rights of all individuals to have privacy in their medical, reproductive, and sexual choices. We believe that women have the right to control over their own bodies and control over their own health care. We consider the ability to have an abortion to be a reproductive choice made by a woman and a medical matter between a woman and her doctor. We believe it is possible to both embrace the sanctity of life and still be concerned about the consequences of today's ruling.

As the United States Attorney General Merrick Garland stated today, "Few rights are more central to individual freedom than the right to control one's own body." In Lansdowne Borough, we concur and will do all in power to advocate for maintenance of this right.

Currently, abortion is legal in Pennsylvania. We will advocate with our elected state representatives to ensure this right remains in Pennsylvania. And, we will advocate with our elected federal representatives to pass legislation to ensure this right for all Americans.

Just as we feel it is important to speak to this ruling today, we must also think broadly about what we will do as a community to continue to care for one another with love and without judgment.

Sincerely,

Mayor Magda Byrne

Council President Benjamin Hover

Council Vice President Sinoe Naji-Taylor

President Pro Tempore Tangela James

Councilmember Kellie Bowker

Councilmember Robert Curry

Councilmember Carol Martsolf

Councilmember Jayne Young