

The Democratic Women of the Prescott Area (DWPA) stand firmly for a woman's right to choose. This letter, written by Board member, Kathleen Sauer, local attorney and Chair of our Women's Rights Committee, speaks for the DWPA.

Judy Stahl DWPA Chair

Yesterday, a draft opinion regarding the precedent of Roe v. Wade was leaked from SCOTUS. Even though all democratic women knew this day could come and certainly feared it, the actual reality of the black and white words of the opinion hit like a punch to the gut.

Let's be clear, if SCOTUS issues this opinion as drafted, it will affect the rights, health and well-being of millions of American women. Regardless of the legal adequacy of the Roe opinion, or of Justice Alito's draft setting that opinion aside, abortion is a right established for women for 50 years, which SCOTUS now wants to rip away and leave to the state, when it is absolutely clear that at least half of the States in the union will eventually outlaw and criminalize the procedure. The result: women will die.

It really is that simple. Women, especially women of color and women in poverty, will die. Privileged women, regardless of their political beliefs, will always have the means to access safe abortion care wherever it can be found. But the most vulnerable women in the country will have this access stripped away, leaving them with the choice of self-care or no care.

The gutting of Roe is just a recognition that the powers and their supporters who installed the conservative justices on this court do not value women. All over the country, States are implementing draconian abortion laws in anticipation of being able to do whatever they want regarding women's health. Make no mistake, there is no safe restriction on abortion. Even if a law recognizes abortion in the case of rape or incest, or to protect the health of the mother (and many of these do not make any such provisions) how do you even administer such laws? How do you make a woman prove she was raped or the victim of incest without subjecting her to further trauma and humiliation? How exactly does the State propose to determine when the health of the mother is at stake? The fact that any state feels that it is within their purview to stand between a doctor and a woman's health means that there is something seriously wrong in the way our country discounts the value of a woman's life.

What it all comes down to is that the issue of abortion is a choice that societies make between whose life to prioritize. There is a minority in this country that has, through nefarious means (looking at you Mitch), installed radically fervent justices on the Supreme Court who have an agenda, and that agenda is not pro-women. They like to say they are pro-life, but I am here to say that it utter and complete nonsense. How can the party that promotes ever lenient gun laws, turns its back on the deaths of school children as a result of such gun laws, does not favor support systems for the poor, distains worker's rights and wants to gut healthcare call itself pro-life? Please remember that this "pro-life" stance is the height of hubris, because not all people think life begins at conception. By insisting that their take on when life begins is accepted truth,

they condemn women to an existence in which they cannot have agency, take control of their own destiny, or thrive. In other words, to live in the “liberty” promised by the Constitution.
