

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

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MEMORANDUM

September 26, 2022

To: Members of the Committee on Oversight and Reform

Fr: Committee Staff

Re: Committee on Oversight and Reform Hybrid Hearing on “Examining the Harm to Patients from Abortion Restrictions and the Threat of a National Abortion Ban”

On **Thursday, September 29, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. ET, in room 2154 of the Rayburn House Office Building and on the Zoom video platform**, the Committee on Oversight and Reform will hold a hybrid hearing to examine the impact of abortion bans and restrictions following the Supreme Court’s decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, including the harm to patients seeking abortion care, and efforts to impose a national abortion ban.

I. BACKGROUND

On June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court released its decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, overturning the constitutionally protected right to abortion established nearly 50 years ago in *Roe v. Wade*.¹

Without a constitutionally recognized right to abortion, state laws banning or severely restricting abortion have taken effect in 15 states.² Some states had “trigger bans” in place that went into place as soon as *Roe* was overturned, and other states have pursued new restrictions. On September 15, 2022, Indiana became the first state to implement a new abortion prohibition in the wake of *Dobbs*.³ Abortion may soon be prohibited in another six states where court action has thus far prevented bans from going into effect.⁴

¹ *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, 597 U.S. ____ (2022).

² Center for Reproductive Rights, *After Roe Fell: Abortion Laws by State* (online at <https://reproductiverights.org/maps/abortion-laws-by-state>) (accessed Sept. 26, 2022).

³ *Indiana Law Banning Most Abortions Takes Effect*, CNN (Sept. 15, 2022) (online at www.cnn.com/2022/09/15/politics/indiana-abortion-ban-takes-effect/index.html).

⁴ Center for Reproductive Rights, *After Roe Fell: Abortion Laws by State* (online at <https://reproductiverights.org/maps/abortion-laws-by-state>) (accessed Sept. 26, 2022).

Abortion restrictions threaten the health and wellbeing of millions of patients in need of reproductive health care and disproportionately affect marginalized communities that already experience barriers to medical care.⁵

II. HEARING PURPOSE

The hearing will examine how abortion bans and restrictions across the United States following the Supreme Court’s decision in *Dobbs* threaten reproductive health care for millions of people. The hearing will evaluate how abortion bans and restrictions harm patients and providers, as well as the ways in which a national abortion ban would threaten the health of people across the United States.

III. WITNESSES

Jocelyn Frye
President
National Partnership for Women & Families

Additional witnesses to be announced.

Staff contacts: Sarah Jackson, Anya Crosby Olsen, Miles Lichtman, Leesa Klepper, and Christina Parisi at (202) 225-5051.

⁵ Center for Reproductive Rights, *The Disproportionate Harm of Abortion Bans: Spotlight on Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health* (Nov. 19, 2021) (online at <https://reproductiverights.org/supreme-court-case-mississippi-abortion-ban-disproportionate-harm/>).