

“Examining the Harm to Patients from Abortion Restrictions and the Threat of a National Abortion Ban”
Committee on Oversight and Reform
10:00 a.m., Thursday, September 29, 2022
Statement for the Record
Rep. Jimmy Gomez (CA-34)

I want to start by expressing my gratitude to Chairwoman Maloney for holding this hearing, which is a testament to her decades of tireless advocacy for reproductive rights.

Our Republican colleagues want the American people to believe that their opposition to reproductive rights is about liberty.

Let’s discuss what it’s really about.

It's about controlling women and individuals who don't look like them, don't agree with them, and don't have the same values as them.

It’s about pandering to a fifty-year campaign, funded by extremists and dark money, to stack our courts and roll back the clock on women’s rights and reproductive rights nationwide.

This is completely out of touch with the will of the American people.

Polls consistently show that more than 60% of Americans support unobstructed access to reproductive care. That’s a greater share of Americans than any which have voted for a single presidential candidate since *Roe v. Wade*.

As we have heard from the courageous patients and doctors here today, the radical Dobbs decision is already hurting patients and their families. Just as we predicted, the people that are suffering most from this extremist agenda are black, brown, indigenous, LGBTQ, and undocumented people.

I’ve pointed out the hypocrisy on the other side of the aisle before. For example, they say they want to increase access to health care and economic mobility while they vote to repeal healthcare and slash social programs. They pledge one thing and backtrack if it furthers their radical agenda.

Remember when Republicans said abortion access should be left to the states? Well last time we met, I predicted that if they got their way, our colleagues would try to outlaw abortion in every state. At that time, a lot of our GOP colleagues denied that was their intention. They said we were using fear to mobilize the public.

Yet, sure enough, instead of respecting the overwhelming will of people in states like Kansas, or California, Senator Graham introduced a national abortion ban in the Senate.

The House version of that legislation was introduced 2 weeks ago, and now has nearly half of the Republican caucus as cosponsors, including the minority leader, the ranking member and more than half of the Republicans on this committee.

Actions speak louder than words. If given the chance Republicans would pass a national ban on abortion, flying in the face of states' rights, the well-being of patients and their families, and the democratic will of the majority of Americans. I will fight to make sure that never happens.