

To the Town of Sangerfield's Representatives in Congress and the New York State Legislature, A Resolution Regarding Abortion Rights

WHEREAS on June 24 the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization ruled that the US Constitution did not guarantee a woman's right to have an abortion, and

WHEREAS that ruling overturned Roe v. Wade and numerous other Supreme Court decisions that had affirmed the right to an abortion during the preceding five decades, and

WHEREAS Dobbs v. Jackson returned to the various states the decision whether to allow abortions and to determine how late in gestation a pregnancy can be terminated, and

WHEREAS this ruling in effect allows the governments of the various states to determine whether and under what circumstances a woman should bear a child, a decision that heretofore rested with the woman who would be responsible for that child and its care and nurturing from birth to maturity and beyond, and

WHEREAS wresting that decision-making ability from them makes all American women second-class citizens in that it restricts their ability to control their own bodies and destinies solely because they and not men can bear children, in clear contradiction of the equal protection clause of Fourteenth Amendment and

WHEREAS restrictions on abortion imposed or under consideration by several states make no allowance as to whether the woman was impregnated through rape or incest, further victimizing the mother, and

WHEREAS restrictions on abortion imposed or under consideration by several states make no exception for whether the pregnancy is viable, whether it will produce a child who faces permanent disability or whether the woman's life would be endangered by bearing the child, and

WHEREAS restrictions on abortion imposed or under consideration by several states would forbid abortion as early as first detection of a fetal heartbeat, a stage that often is passed before the mother even learns she is pregnant, and

WHEREAS although several other states, New York among them, are pledged to maintaining abortion rights, it may be beyond the financial capacity of poor women living in states that restrict abortion to travel to these havens for safe, legal procedures, raising the specter of the return of the back-alley abortionist and self-induced abortions via the coat hanger or knitting needle, and

WHEREAS the Dobbs decision makes no provision for prenatal or postnatal health care for mothers who are forced by the ruling to bear unwanted children, and

WHEREAS Dobbs makes no provision to help these mothers feed, clothe, house or otherwise raise these children through maturity, and

WHEREAS the motivation behind abortion restriction rests at least in part upon the religious beliefs of their advocates, such restrictions violate the beliefs of others whose religions condone abortion in contradiction to the First Amendment, and

WHEREAS Dobbs raises the question whether other rights heretofore implicitly or explicitly deemed constitutional can now be retracted by the courts – a matter raised by Justice Clarence Thomas in his concurring opinion with respect to homosexual marriage and the right of married persons to acquire contraception, but perhaps also applicable to whether the government can compel individuals to be vaccinated and wear masks during a health crisis or restrict the right to bear arms,

THEREFORE, the Town of Sangerfield Democratic Committee considers the Supreme Court’s decision in Dobbs v. Jackson the most egregious violation of the principle of equal protection under the law since Plessy v. Ferguson. We affirm that a woman’s decision whether to carry a fetus to term or seek an abortion properly resides between that woman, her doctor and her deity and so we urge that:

- Congress enact and the President sign whatever legislation is necessary to preserve the right of all American women to control their own bodies and destinies, including the right to have an abortion, under the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment;
- Meanwhile that Congress enact and the President sign legislation extending Medicare to all residents but particularly to women barred by their states from obtaining abortions and to the children they subsequently bear, and that the cost of extending Medicare to those women and children be charged back to their states of residence;
- That Congress enact and the President sign legislation creating a Federal Job Guarantee Program making the federal government the employer of last resort so that women denied an abortion can be assured gainful employment including a living wage and benefits package;
- That Congress and the President strengthen financial, food and other assistance for women, infants and children, particularly for women barred by their states from obtaining abortions and for the children they subsequently bear, and that the cost be charged back to their states of residence;
- That to prevent unwanted pregnancies, Congress and the President require the Department of Education to develop comprehensive sex education programs appropriate to various age levels to be provided to all children;
- That the New York Legislature enact and the Governor sign legislation that would protect and indemnify licensed medical professionals in New York who perform abortions for women from states that allow such professionals to be sued by third parties for performing the procedures or providing “morning after” medications; and further, that the Attorney General of the state of New York be encouraged to file suit against states with such provision citing a violation of interstate commerce.

Adopted this second day of August, 2022.

Respectfully,

Town of Sangerfield Democratic Committee