

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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YWCA Metropolitan Phoenix Joins YWCA USA in Standing for Reproductive Freedom at the Supreme Court

YWCA USA Submits Amicus Brief to Supreme Court On Impact Striking Down Roe v. Wade Would Have on Young Women of Color

Phoenix - Today, YWCA USA filed an [amicus brief](#) in the Supreme Court decision, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which will determine the future of *Roe v. Wade*. YWCA Metropolitan Phoenix stands with YWCA USA in urging the Supreme Court to protect reproductive freedom for young women and young women of color in communities across America.

Since 1973, young women have been guaranteed a constitutional right to make deeply personal and sometimes difficult decisions about their futures. Pre-viability abortion bans like the one in Mississippi disproportionately harm young women and women of color, core constituencies of YWCA. Stripping away this freedom will greatly endanger the education, health, employment, economic prospects, and quality of life of young women and young women of color.

"We stand in solidarity with YWCA USA and our sisterhood of associations in defending a woman's right to safe and accessible abortions. We refuse to sit on the sidelines while this fundamental right to determine their own future is at stake for young women, particularly young women of color," said **Debbie Esparza, CEO of YWCA Metropolitan Phoenix**.

YWCA impacts lives at the intersection of race and gender. "Reproductive justice is a racial justice issue," said **Maria Crimi Speth, YWCA Metropolitan Phoenix Board Chair**. "This is the most important constitutional issue we, as a nation, have faced in my 33 years of practicing law. I am proud of the YWCA effort to protect this right."

"Young women would face significant harm as the first generation in half a century to enter adulthood without the fundamental right to decide whether and when to have children," said **Elisha Rhodes, Interim CEO of YWCA USA**. "The stakes for this decision couldn't be higher - the right to access safe and legal abortion is essential to the pursuit of gender and racial justice. Armed with the knowledge that the right to determine their reproductive future was protected by

Roe, young women have been able to invest in their education, training, vocations, and careers. Reversing Roe would limit the full economic potential of young women, who could be pushed out of the workplace or forced to limit their education and careers to accommodate pregnancy or childcare. Everyone should have the freedom and power to make personal decisions about their lives, families, and futures. We must stand firmly for a woman's right to safe, affordable, accessible abortion.”

For more information on this decision and to find out how you can stand with young women at the Supreme Court, please [visit the YWCA USA website](#).

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About YWCA Metropolitan Phoenix

Since 1912, YWCA Metropolitan Phoenix has been on a mission to eliminate racism, empower women, stand up for social justice, help families, and strengthen communities. We imagine an equitable and inclusive Phoenix for everyone. We focus on how race and gender impact the issues that impact Phoenix and we create safe spaces for brave conversations. Additionally, we provide direct services for seniors, women and their families through our prosperity, senior meals, and equity programs. YWCA Metropolitan Phoenix is an independent 501c(3) and a member of YWCA USA. Learn more at www.ywcaaz.org.

About YWCA USA

[YWCA](#) is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. We are one of the oldest and largest women's organizations in the nation, serving over 2 million women, girls, and their families.

YWCA has been at the forefront of the most pressing social movements for 160 years — from voting rights to civil rights, from affordable housing to pay equity, from violence prevention to health care reform. Today, we combine programming and advocacy to generate institutional change in three key areas: racial justice and civil rights, empowerment and economic advancement of women and girls, and health and safety of women and girls.