

# Advocates React To Roe Decision

**D**isability organizations reacted after the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision to overturn the court's rulings in *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, ending any federal right to abortion.

The statement from American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD); Autistic Self Advocacy Network; Autistic Women and Nonbinary Network; Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law; Be A Hero Center for American Progress; Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund; Little Lobbyists; and Women Enabled International expressed grave concern and outrage.

"This decision overturns *Roe* and *Casey* and eliminates any federal right to abortion," the statement said. "In doing so, it puts many disabled people, particularly Black people, Indigenous people, and other people of color, LGBTQIA+ folks, immigrants, survivors of sexual assault, poor people, and our allies at risk for forced childbirth, death, criminalization, and other physi-

cal, emotional, and material harms.

"People with disabilities are more likely to experience sexual assault, and people with some disabilities face increased and serious health risks from pregnancy. Disabled people need and deserve access to affirming and accessible reproductive health care services, including abortion.

"We cannot wait for a future Supreme Court to reverse this devastating decision. Congress must act to protect these important rights.

"This decision threatens the true meaning of many values that are proclaimed to be core American values – freedom of choice, self-determination and independence from government interference in one's personal affairs," said Maria Town, president and CEO of AAPD. "Today's Supreme Court decision does not just threaten value systems and rights, but the health and safety of disabled people.

"This decision will cause grave, and in many cases, lethal, bodily harm to far too many disabled people, espe-

cially those who already face the most significant barriers to accessing reproductive health care – low-income disabled people, disabled people of color and disabled LGBTQIA+ people. We must do all we can to preserve bodily autonomy and prevent further harm. All people deserve access to abortion care when they need it, on the timeline they choose and in the community they trust."

AAPD's statement said they will find a way forward, guided by their belief that each person deserves to live, work and make decisions about their health and future with dignity and respect. AAPD will continue to provide updates and information about how this landscape will impact people with disabilities and will continue to fight for a future where everyone can live with self-determination and dignity."

The group statement ended with, "To protect our communities, we stand united in our opposition to this opinion and its unjust result. Our rights – and the rights of countless Americans – depend on it."