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In the past week, the US Supreme Court issued its ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* in which the Court over-turned *Roe v. Wade* and ended federal protection of women's right to privacy, reproductive health, and bodily autonomy.

This tragedy has been years in the making, the end result of a long campaign with laser focus on rolling back abortion rights, along with a host of established legal precedents built upon the basic principle of the right to privacy. It imposes the will of a conservative minority on a majority that stands in opposition. *Dobbs v. Jackson* (as with other decisions handed down and to be issued in the coming years) is an expression of power in the classic sense – the ability to impose one's will despite opposition.

Across the US, many states' trigger laws banning abortion have already gone into effect and include provisions for prosecution of women who obtain abortions out-of-state and providers who provide them. While the Massachusetts legislature preserved women's access to reproductive healthcare and abortion in passing the ROE Act, we have learned all too well that we cannot take our rights for granted and *Dobbs v. Jackson* is the opening salvo.

I stand with women. I stand for women. I stand for our constitutional rights and the rule of law.

Onward.

Rob