

July 1, 2022

Dear Community:

On behalf of SIROW, we condemn the Supreme Court's June 24, 2022 decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, undoing 50 years of precedent and stripping millions of their reproductive rights and bodily autonomy. The predicted consequences of this decision will be detrimental and far reaching, and its lasting ramifications revealed over the next weeks, months, and years.

We stand in solidarity with all who are affected both directly and indirectly by this dangerous ruling. As a provider of community-based participatory research, evaluation, and programming for more than four decades, with a mission to uplift diverse groups, SIROW knows that those we serve will be disproportionately affected by this ruling. These include any person who can get pregnant – cisgender women, transgender men, nonbinary and gender non-conforming folks – as well as their partners and families, their medical providers, and even more specifically, Black, Brown, and Indigenous people, immigrants, young people, people living in rural America, and those who are economically disadvantaged.

Research suggests that Arizona will be one of the states most impacted by the ruling. A 2019 analysis, updated in 2021, found that over 1.3 million Arizona women would be affected. The average distance to an abortion clinic would increase from 17 miles to 247, and the rate of abortion would drop by 40.3%.¹

Abortion will not be eliminated, it will only become harder to access, with undue hardship and risks. Beyond abortion, other reproductive care such as miscarriage management and infertility treatment will also be compromised – just an example of the numerous poorly-considered effects of this decision. And with the explicit call by Justice Thomas to revisit other rulings, hard-earned civil liberties, LGBTQ+ rights and others are likely also in jeopardy.

In this tumultuous time, SIROW remains steadfast in its commitment to uplifting marginalized communities and fighting for social justice. We will continue to contribute to positive social changes at individual, familial, community, and structural levels by challenging the status quo, facilitating the voices of those who experience disparity, working with diverse groups, and seeking innovative methods to improve conditions and contexts. If this work was important before, it is nothing short of vital now.

In Solidarity,

SIROW Steering Committee

¹ Myers, C., Jones, R., & Upadhyay, U. (2019). Predicted changes in abortion access and incidence in a post-Roe world. *Contraception*, 100(5), 367-373. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.contraception.2019.07.139>

