



Statement of Esta Soler,
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A Day for Resolve and Action: On What Would Have Been 50th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade, Let's Recommit to Undoing the Harm the Dobbs Ruling Caused to Survivors of Violence and Abuse

“The 50th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Roe v. Wade* this weekend should have been a celebration of this landmark advance for the health, safety, and autonomy of women and all who can become pregnant. Sadly, it is anything but a celebration. As we feared, last summer’s high court ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, overturning *Roe*, has caused tremendous harm to people seeking abortion, other reproductive health care, or care after a miscarriage, as well as to survivors of rape, incest, and/or domestic violence, who are being denied access to the care they need.

The Court gave state lawmakers license to deny pregnant people the health care they need, with catastrophic results. Tens of millions of people have lost the ability to decide when it is safe and when they feel ready to have a child, putting many women and everyone who has the capacity to become pregnant in harm’s way. Twelve states have banned abortion, [at least 66 clinics in 15 states](#) have stopped providing this care, and even more are poised to do so. Many of the abortion bans make inadequate or no exceptions for people who became pregnant as a result of rape or incest.

Even before the trauma and hardship *Dobbs* caused, intimate [partner homicide was a particular risk during pregnancy](#). Homicide during pregnancy and shortly thereafter is a [leading cause of maternal mortality](#). For [Black victims of intimate partner violence and among girls and younger women](#) (age 10–24), the risk is especially high. Even for survivors of violence and abuse not at immediate risk for homicide, forced parenthood with an abusive partner is cruel and can contribute to adverse consequences for parents and children for years to come. Reproductive coercion, including birth control sabotage by abusive partners, [can cause unintended pregnancy](#), as can child sexual abuse.

This is a day to redouble our resolve. At Futures Without Violence, we continue to stand with every person seeking abortion care, and with those who provide it. The end of *Roe v. Wade* has further limited the possibility of a safer life and a future without violence for survivors of abuse. We will continue working to build awareness of the connection between violence and reproductive health; oppose efforts to take personal decisions out of the hands of those most affected by them; and press for the programs parents need to support their families, including health care, child nutrition, housing, paid leave, affordable child care, quality jobs, gun safety, and more.”

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ABOUT FUTURES WITHOUT VIOLENCE:

For more than 35 years, FUTURES has been providing groundbreaking programs, policies and campaigns that empower individuals and organizations working to end violence against women and children around the world. Striving to reach new audiences and transform social norms, FUTURES trains professionals such as doctors, nurses, judges and athletic coaches on improving responses to violence and abuse. FUTURES also works with advocates, policymakers and others to build sustainable community leadership and educate people everywhere about the importance of respect and healthy relationships. More information is available at www.futureswithoutviolence.org.