



**IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Contact: Annemarie Stephens  
Telephone: 202-630-6194  
Email: [Publicrelations.naacpdc@gmail.com](mailto:Publicrelations.naacpdc@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.naacpdc.org](http://www.naacpdc.org)

## **NAACP CALLS FOR THE PROTECTION OF ROE V. WADE AND REAFFIRMS NEED FOR DC STATEHOOD**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — The NAACP Washington DC Branch calls for the continued protection of Roe v. Wade and reaffirms the need for DC Statehood. U.S. Supreme Court’s 1973 Roe v. Wade decision protects a pregnant woman’s liberty to choose to have an abortion. The verified draft opinion authored by Supreme Court Justice Samuel A. Alito calls for the overturning of Roe w/ Wade, potentially opening the door to challenge other rights protected by the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

Washington, DC residents would be uniquely impacted by this decision, without Statehood for the District of Columbia. Statehood is a matter of life and death for many residents of the District of Columbia because it is a public health and racial justice issue. Denying DC statehood, has detrimental effects on the health, wellness and livelihood of the people of the District of Columbia. All laws passed by the DC Council and signed by the Mayor are subject to review and veto by Congress. In addition to veto power, Congress is also able to create its own legislation and force legislative authority on DC residents by riders or passing bills through the House, Senate and POTUS. Reproductive health care in DC is in crisis. DC residents are denied the autonomy to build our own health care systems and make our own choices about their bodies. The District of Columbia has the 5th worst overall maternal mortality rate in the nation. African-Americans are over 50%, of the District’s residential population. White DC residents have a maternal mortality rate of nearly zero. DC’s lack of autonomy continues to risk the health of residents. Without the protection of Roe V. Wade, DC would be subject to increased interference of congressional lawmakers from all 50 states who would be able to ban abortions in the district regardless of the decision of district residents and local D.C Government.

***Akosua Ali, NAACP DC Branch President, stated, “Questioning a woman’s right to choose in 2022 is egregious. The potential of overturning Roe v. Wade is a fierce awakening of the political climate of this country and a reminder that our votes matter. Many indifferent and infrequent voters that failed to vote in the mid-term now see the potential impact our votes have on the daily lives. This also reaffirms the need for Statehood as a fundamental right to protect the rights of women in the District of Columbia.”***

***Abiola Agoro, NAACP DC Political Action Chair, stated, “Black Women, Women of Color, and people with uteruses continue to be subjected to the brutality and heartlessness of a system that requires us to function but views us as disposable. The SCOTUS opinion leak is an ugly reminder of how urgently we need Statehood. DC needs Statehood NOW. It is appalling that we continue to have our voices overturned by a governing body that does not represent us and our needs.”***

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For more information, please email [naacp@naacpdc.org](mailto:naacp@naacpdc.org).



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## ABOUT NAACP:

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. Its members throughout the United States and the world are premier advocates for civil rights in their communities. The mission of NAACP is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic quality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.

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