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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Rabbi Bonnie Margulis, Chair, WI-RCRC, 608-335-4772; rabbibonnie@charter.net

**Wisconsin Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice Decries SCOTUS Decision
Overturning Abortion Rights**

Today is a dark day for our country. For the first time in our history, our Supreme Court, the court of last resort, has taken away a right that Americans have relied on for nearly fifty years, the right to decide for themselves when and whether to become a parent. Make no mistake, in making that decision, the Court has guaranteed that women will die.

The Wisconsin Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice condemns this abhorrent decision. WI-RCRC Chair Rabbi Bonnie Margulis said, “As a Jew, I live by the words of the Torah, which teaches us ‘do not stand idly by while your neighbor bleeds’. This means it is my responsibility, and that of all who live by this precept, to do what I can to oppose this decision and to provide what help I can to people whose lives will be at risk because of it.”

In overturning the 1973 decision *Roe v. Wade* that legalized abortion, the Supreme Court has turned back the clock to a time when access to abortion care depended on what state you lived in, your economic status, and your ethnicity. In 1965, deaths from illegal abortion accounted for 17% of all pregnancy-related deaths¹. Women of color were disproportionately affected by lack of access to legal abortion care. Between 1972 and 1974, the mortality rate for women of color was 12 times that of white women.²

Because of an antiquated law on the books in Wisconsin, the decision of the Supreme Court has rendered abortion illegal in our state. Now people will be faced with the untenable choice of continuing an unwelcome pregnancy or having to travel to another state for legal abortion care or seeking an illegal and possibly dangerous abortion here at home.

The Wisconsin Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice stands with women and all people who may be facing unwelcome or crisis pregnancies. We stand ready to provide whatever assistance we can, as our consciences and the teachings of our faiths require us to do.

¹ <https://www.guttmacher.org/gpr/2003/03/lessons-roe-will-past-be-prologue>

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