



## ***Community Coalition Statement on Roe v. Wade Draft Opinion***

"The threat of overturning *Roe v. Wade* is yet another devastating reminder of how Black and Brown women have historically been denied autonomies of our bodies and options like quality healthcare for ourselves and our families," Gerri Lawrence, COO of Community Coalition, stated. "Women of color deserve the basic human right to have self-determination over our own lives, including our pregnancies."

We at the Community Coalition are appalled to see that the U.S. Supreme Court majority has drafted an opinion overturning *Roe v. Wade*. If issued, the 50-year-old federally protected constitutional right to an abortion would no longer be the rule of law, endangering the reproductive freedoms of millions across the country. This decision will have unconscionable repercussions for all human and civil rights, but especially that of Black, Brown and Indigenous women, low-income people, and other marginalized birthing people across the country if passed by the Court.

The draft opinion might not be the Court's final order, but it underscores that the lack of safe abortion access will exacerbate economic, social, and health inequities. The outcome would create more unnecessary hurdles for Black and Brown women, who have faced significant barriers to receiving quality health care options and suffer from disproportionately higher mortality rates during childbirth. Also, women of color have cited an inability to afford children as a primary reason for seeking abortion care.

Access to safe abortions and quality healthcare is an essential economic, gender, and racial justice issue that cannot be ignored. We stand in solidarity with women's rights and reproductive justice organizations across the country and raise our voices demanding the Supreme Court uphold *Roe v. Wade*. Until the decision is final, we will continue to work with our allies to protect the ability for all to make the most basic health and wellness decisions for themselves and their families. As Fannie Lou Hamer reminded us years ago, "Nobody's free until everybody's free."