PRAY FOR DOBBS



Case Name: Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization

U.S. Supreme Court Docket Number: 19-1392

U.S. Supreme Court Oral Arguments Date: December 1, 2021

Significance: Whether all pre-viability prohibitions on elective abortions are unconstitutional.

Hashtag: #PrayforDobbs #EmpowerWomenPromoteLife #LifeIsAHumanRight

Website: www.prayfordobbs.com

Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health

BACKGROUND:

Mississippi's Gestational Age Act protects the health and wellbeing of pregnant mothers, the life and dignity of unborn children, and the integrity of the medical profession by limiting abortions after 15 weeks gestational age except in medical emergencies or for severe fetal abnormality. By 15 weeks, a baby has a heartbeat, can move and kick, can sense movement outside the mother's womb, has eyes and eyelids that are beginning to open, can hiccup, and can hear her or his mother's heartbeat. The people of Mississippi understand that life is a human right and every life deserves to be protected. So, they chose to pass a law to protect unborn children and their mothers. Mississippi's law is consistent with what more than 90% of countries worldwide already do. In fact, the United States is an extreme outlier in abortion law and policy, being one of only four countries, including China and North Korea, that allows the abortion of a child any time during a woman's pregnancy.

Shortly after Mississippi's law was enacted in 2018, the only abortion clinic in Mississippi challenged the law. On May 17, 2021, the Supreme Court granted review of Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization. The specific question the Court will answer is whether a state may enact limits on abortion before viability, i.e., when the baby is capable of living outside her mother's womb. The Supreme Court will consider the correctness of its previous rulings in Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey, which severely limit the ability of states to protect their interests in unborn life and maternal health. Notably, the State of Mississippi explains in its brief that neither the right to an abortion nor a viability line have any basis in constitutional text or history, and that the medical research into fetal development over the last half century establishes that states have a compelling interest in protecting unborn life at 15 weeks.

More than 80 friend-of-the-court briefs were filed with the Supreme Court in support of the Mississippi law—exceeding the amicus brief filings in an average case multiple times over and resulting in the most amicus briefs ever filed in support of a pro-life law.

THE BOTTOM LINE:

The U.S. Supreme Court should affirm that life is a human right and uphold Mississippi's law.

Timeline of Mississippi's 15-Week Law Protecting Life and Women's Health

January-March 2018 Mississippi legislature introduces, debates, and passes 15-week law (HB 1510)

March 19, 2018

Mississippi Governor Bryant signs HB 1510; Mississippi's lone abortion clinic immediately sues to block enforcement

March 20, 2018 Federal district court in Mississippi temporarily blocks law

November 20, 2018 Federal district court rules that Mississippi law is unconstitutional

March 2019 Attorneys file amicus brief in Fifth Circuit on behalf of Mississippi

Governor Phil Bryant in support of the 15-week law

December 13, 2019 Fifth Circuit upholds lower court ruling

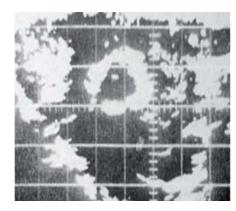
June 15, 2020 Mississippi petitions Supreme Court to review case

May 17, 2021 Supreme Court grants review

December 1, 2021 Oral arguments to be heard

June 2022 Opinion expected

Fifteen-week ultrasounds around 1973 when Roe was decided and today:





Amici Curiae Brief for the American College of Pediatricians and the Association of American Physicians & Surgeons,

Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization.

Baby on first page: iStock.com/Mongkolchon Akesin. Model used for illustrative purposes only.