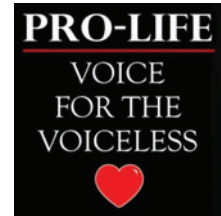




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U.S. SUPREME COURT TO HEAR CASE WHICH COULD OVERTURN *ROE V. WADE*

On Wednesday, December 1st, the U. S. Supreme Court will hear arguments in the case of *Dobbs v. Jackson. Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* is the most important abortion case to come before the U.S. Supreme Court in more than a decade. Legal scholars on both sides of the abortion debate believe this could be the case that finally overturns *Roe v. Wade*.

The case concerns the Gestational Age Act, law enacted by Mississippi in 2018 that bans abortion after 15 weeks gestation, which would bring Mississippi law into conformity with the abortion laws of nearly every developed country. The law was challenged in federal court and has never been enforced in Mississippi. In May 2021, the Supreme Court agreed to review the case, and in September set a December 1 hearing date.

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 the 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 limits 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 the viability line have any basis in constitutional text or history, and that medical research into fetal development over the last half century establishes that states have a compelling interest in protecting unborn life at 15 weeks.

This case represents the most significant challenge to *Roe v. Wade* and the viability standard in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* in a generation. A decision by the U.S. Supreme Court on this historic case is expected at the end of June 2022, but that date is subject to change. **Let's all pray for the Justices to be guided by great wisdom and compassion.**

THREE OUTCOMES ARE POSSIBLE:

The Supreme Court could agree with the lower courts and strike down Mississippi's Gestational Age Act.

This result is considered unlikely, because if this is what the court intended to do, it could have declined to hear the case, leaving the lower court injunction in place, blocking the law.

The Supreme Court could uphold the Mississippi law in full or in part, without overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

To do so, they would have to replace the legal reasoning of *Roe v. Wade* and the later *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* rulings with another foundation for legal abortion.

The Supreme Court could overturn *Roe v. Wade*, returning this issue to the states.

Mississippi's law would go into effect, and other states would be free to limit abortion more broadly than has been possible until now, possibly even banning it. Meanwhile, several states have already enacted laws keeping legal abortion intact in the event that *Roe* is overturned.

For more information about the case, click on this link: [Microsoft Word - Dobbs.final \(uscbb.org\)](#) **and:** [What Makes 'Dobbs' the Best, and Possibly Last, Chance to Overturn 'Roe'? | National Catholic Register \(ncregister.com\)](#) - November 28 article **and:** [What Makes 'Dobbs' the Best, and Possibly Last, Chance to Overturn 'Roe'? | National Catholic Register \(ncregister.com\)](#) - November 29 article.