

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **ASPPH Statement on SCOTUS Decision to Overturn *Roe v. Wade***

June 27, 2022 – As the leading voice of academic public health, the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) is extremely concerned with the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. This will have irreparable consequences on the strides our nation has made in reducing maternal mortality rates over the past 50 years. ASPPH believes access to abortion is a fundamental constitutional right. It is also an essential component to ensure optimal public health for individuals, families, and communities across the country. Removing access to these family planning services will significantly impact overall health, including mental health outcomes.

Furthermore, the decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* will fall unequally on marginalized populations and exacerbate health disparities. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Black women are five times more likely to have an abortion than white women, while Latinx women are twice as likely. Evidence shows that prioritizing equal access to family planning and abortion services is essential to addressing health inequities and improving public health. It is also important to recognize that this ruling will have an impact globally, as other countries may use this decision as justification to restrict access to family planning as well.

The Supreme Court's decision will only remove safeguards for providers and patients in states that restrict abortions, rather than end abortions all together, as intended by the Court. We strongly oppose this decision and call on Congress to act.

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*The Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) is a 501c3 membership organization located in Washington, DC. ASPPH's mission is to strengthen the capacity of our member schools and programs by advancing leadership, excellence, and collaboration for academic public health. Our members are CEPH-accredited schools and programs of public health as well as schools and programs in applicant status for CEPH-accreditation.*

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