



Dear Friends,

November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020

At this momentous time in U.S. history, with a pandemic surging out of control under an administration that has turned its back on the health of our nation, women's reproductive rights are threatened as never before. Although 7 out of 10 Americans support the right to choose, for decades reproductive freedom has increasingly become a target for the radical right.

Soon after the passing of women's rights trailblazer and Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, President Trump nominated Amy Coney Barrett, a longtime anti-reproductive rights extremist, for the Court's empty seat. Rapidly confirmed by the Senate, Barrett raises the Supreme Court's conservative domination to 6–3. This means that our constitutional right to abortion, enshrined into federal law by the *Roe v. Wade* decision in 1973, will likely be overturned — and even our right to contraception might well be challenged.

If *Roe v. Wade* is struck down, it will end our right to abortion at the federal level, resulting in immediate abortion bans in the 10 “trigger law” states: Arkansas, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Dakota, Missouri, Tennessee, South Dakota and Utah. Access could also be reduced in other areas, with subsequent legislation targeting abortion rights in further states.

Pregnant women in these areas would have to travel out of state or obtain medication abortion online — and in some cases, will be vulnerable to potential prosecution. Marginalized women, especially women of color and low-income women, would face disproportionate suffering and difficulty obtaining the resources to access a safe abortion. Instead of going forward, many women will be restricted to the “barefoot and pregnant” environment of half a century ago.

We **refuse** to give up our hard-won reproductive rights or allow women in other states to languish without abortion care. For 45 years, Women's Health Specialists has provided abortion and practical support to local northern California women dealing with social, economic, and political challenges in pursuit of self-determination.

Women's Health Specialists **will** survive the escalating war on abortion and continue to provide safe, legal, non-judgmental reproductive health care to all the women who make their way to us. We honor our responsibility to act as a lodestar and haven to the many women who aren't as fortunate as our sisters in California and other safe states, and must leave their own states, traveling far from home to exercise their reproductive rights.

WHS will welcome these determined women — and with your help, we will keep our doors open to support our mission of providing full-service reproductive health care to *all* the women who need it, no matter where they come from. Make your [donation](#) to preserve and protect access, and the right to safe legal abortion.

**This is the time to recognize our power and strength and to act together — there is no going back.**

Katrina Cantrell, Executive Director  
Women's Health Specialists