



West Virginia
State Medical
Association

WVSMA Statement Regarding the United State Supreme Court's Decision in the Dodd Case

June 30, 2022

The West Virginia State Medical Association is deeply concerned by the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn nearly a half century of precedent protecting women's rights to have close professional relationships with their physicians to determine their health care needs. It confounds the physician-patient relationship and the practice of medicine.

The Supreme Court's opinion shifting reproductive health decision-making to lawmakers opens a situation that places sound medical practice and patient health at risk. State restrictions intruding on the practice of medicine and interfering with the patient-physician relationship may leave many West Virginia families with little or no access to health services.

Access to legal reproductive care will be limited to those with the sufficient resources, circumstances, and financial means to do so—exacerbating health inequities by placing the heaviest burden on patients from low-income, rural areas, and other historically disadvantaged communities already facing numerous structural and systemic barriers to accessing health care.

WVSMA continues to represent the best interest of physicians and patients in order to embody the practice of medicine and protect the physician-patient relationship. We oppose any law, regulation or rule compromising or criminalizing patient access to safe, evidence-based medical care.