

## Op-Ed by the Abortion Liberation Fund of PA - May 3, 2022

Last night, a <u>draft majority opinion</u> from the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) was unexpectedly circulated, revealing that they intend to overrule *Roe v. Wade*. While this is a leaked draft opinion, **not** a final order of the Court, it is a devastating indication of the realities facing abortion access in this country. It is also a painful reminder that abortion restrictions are white supremacy in action.

Here at the Abortion Liberation Fund of PA (ALF-PA), we want to make this clear: abortion is still legal. If you or someone you know needs an abortion in PA, the SCOTUS draft opinion should not deter you from seeking that care.

Anyone who has sought an abortion in PA knows intimately of the courts' growing hostility towards abortion access. In the past several years, we have seen a steep increase in abortion restrictions at the state and national level. In PA, roughly 86% of counties lack an abortion provider, we have a 24-hour waiting period, medically-inaccurate state-mandated counseling, and no Medicare coverage of abortion. For many people in PA, these restrictions have meant living without the protections of *Roe* since 1985. All abortion restrictions target marginalized communities, and are extreme, cruel and inhumane, reminding us that abortion access does not begin or end with courts or legislation. Rather, it is achieved by grassroots efforts led by the most impacted. As such, we remain committed to building out supportive networks of care beyond *Roe*.

We are calling on everyone to stay grounded in remembering abortion is older than this country and its courts. **No matter what happens in the final SCOTUS decision, people will need abortions and people will have abortions.** ALF-PA - like our sibling funds across the nation - will still be here to provide funding and support in our continued fight for abortion liberation!

We will also continue building community power and fostering community support through organizing. Abortion organizing is about the survival of *people* - of individuals, of families, of community networks. Abortion support does not begin in the moment one needs an abortion; it is all the circumstances and intersecting identities leading up to that: access to networks of support and resources. Our collective goal should be to build and expand on those networks – empowering communities with skills, knowledge, and material resources they may need to safely and sustainably care for themselves while resisting, shrinking, and abolishing the interconnected systems of oppression that are hostile towards that reproductive care. With that in mind, please stay tuned for upcoming trainings, workshops, and other opportunities to mobilize for abortion access with ALF-PA!

## In the meantime, one of the greatest impacts you can make right now is through resourcing your local abortion fund. In PA, you can:

- Make a donation to the ALF-PA 2022 Fund-a-Thon campaign.
- Make a <u>general donation</u> and consider becoming a recurring donor to help sustain our work. More than 80% of our revenue comes from everyday folks. Donations are of all sizes, too, with most of them being under \$250. Every dollar helps.
- Purchase <u>merch</u>. Wearing these pieces in public helps bust abortion stigma and spread the word about our fund.
- Follow us on social media. <u>Instagram</u>, <u>Twitter</u>, <u>Facebook</u>.
- Find your local abortion fund through the <u>National Network of Abortion Funds</u>

The courts, nor the state, will save us. We take care of us.