

For those who have followed the Graduate and Professional Student Senate's advocacy efforts over the past two years, it is likely unsurprising that we, the GPSS Executive Board, vehemently disagree with the US Supreme Court's ruling on *Dobbs v. Jackson* which revoked nearly fifty years of abortion protections constitutionally secured by *Roe v. Wade* (1973).

We affirm that abortion is, and should remain, a private, healthcare matter to be determined by the pregnant individual in consultation with their healthcare providers, their loved ones, or their faith— with all of these entities or none at all.

We affirm that healthcare issues, such as abortion and access to abortion, fall outside the decision-making capacities of politicians – state or federal. Assuming one religion, one political orientation, or group of nine non-healthcare professionals are capable of revoking an embodied right for over 167.5 million people in this country is arrogant, immoral, and dangerous.

Consequences have already emerged through a revival of [archaic laws](#): from [bounty hunting](#) to forced births when a [heartbeat is detected](#) that [defy scientific and medical knowledge](#). The US already has [the worst maternal mortality rate of any industrialized nation](#) – 23.8 deaths per 100,000 births compared to France (8.7) as the second-highest. Forcing more people to carry out pregnancies that are unviable or present a risk to their bodies and minds will only cause this number to increase— [an estimated 21% increase overall and 33% for Black Americans](#).

We affirm that the consequences of bans or near-bans on abortion disproportionately effect [persons from rural communities](#), [persons experiencing financial hardship](#), [persons of color](#), [LGBTQ+ persons](#), and [non-US citizens](#). The changes to abortion access in the US have resulted in abortions only being consistently available to a privileged few. Access to abortion is a healthcare issue and an equity issue.

The fight for reproductive justice— the right to reliable, affordable, and safe abortions and care— will continue with or without state, federal, or institutional support. We will lend our aid and voices to local organizations, university groups, and nonprofits – whether through protests, resolutions, or other advocacy work.

To get involved locally, please consider volunteering or donating to the [New River Abortion Access Fund](#). For folks in NOVA, please reach out to the [Blue Ridge Abortion Fund](#) for further volunteer opportunities and support.

For further consideration, please see a wealth of resources curated by the BMVS GSA and given to the GPSS for distribution below along with a few additional resources.

As always, please reach out to the GPSS Executive Board (gpss@vt.edu) if you have questions or are in need of additional support. We will do our best to connect you to the appropriate groups to address your inquiries and needs.

Please be aware of your digital trail when accessing online resources. [Here is a link with tips to help keep you protected](#). [The Electronic Frontier Foundation](#) has also updated many of its privacy and security protocols and suggestions after Dobbs. It is currently legal to discuss abortion in Virginia, but we encourage everyone to gauge their personal risk based on their identity when discussing abortion publically.

For those seeking safe & legal abortion:

- Abortion is currently still legal in Virginia with restrictions beginning in the 3rd trimester, although this could change as the Youngkin administration is currently seeking a 15 week abortion ban. [Here](#) is a list of providers in our area. [Here](#) is our local resource for financial and practical support. [Here](#) is a great resource for the abortion pill (AKA “medication abortion”).
- Aetna Student Plan coverage of contraception and reproductive care can be found [here](#). Pertinent information can be found on pages 15 and 33.
- You can track changes in access to abortion care using this [live map](#) from the Center for Reproductive Rights. Use this helpful [glossary of terms](#) to help understand legal discussions surrounding changing abortion restrictions and bans.
- The Satanic Temple is also advocating for [religious exemptions to access abortion](#) for its members. They will also provide legal support and counseling to protect abortion access through the first trimester. Membership is free. Contact Alice if you have questions about the TST (AQFox22@vt.edu).
- The National Council for Jewish Women is also seeking lawsuits for religious exemptions. Get involved [here](#).
- Telehealth appointments for medication abortions at home are available for VA residents at the [Metropolitan Washington DC Planned Parenthood](#) and the [South Atlantic Planned Parenthood](#). Plan C also offers [various options for Telehealth services and at-home abortions](#).
- [Women on the Web](#) is an international coalition of doctors, researchers, activists, and help desk members who help provide access to safe contraception and abortion services.
- [Abortion on Demand](#) will also help connect you to telehealth services for at-home abortions.

For those seeking contraception:

- The [Women’s Clinic at Schiffert](#) provides some contraception methods for Virginia Tech students. Schiffert Health Center options for pregnancy care can be found [here](#).
- Aetna Student Plan coverage of contraception and reproductive care can be found [here](#). Pertinent information can be found on pages 15 and 33.
- Several online resources also exist to receive contraceptives and morning-after pills compatible with Aetna or low-cost without insurance: [NurX](#), [Lemonade](#), [Favor](#).

For those seeking legal guidance:

- The [Code of Virginia](#) has not changed, and there aren't any trigger laws at this time that would go into effect as a result of the recent SCOTUS ruling.
- The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) provides guidance about legal issues on their social media pages. You can follow the national page [here](#), or the Virginia page [here](#).
- The Repro Legal Hotline is available [here](#) or by phone at (844) 868-2812.
- You may also seek guidance from [Student Legal Services at Virginia Tech](#).
- The Virginia Tech Women's Center offers a [guide to reporting abuse](#) and provides information regarding other university/legal pipelines for additional support.

For those seeking ways to get involved:

- You can donate or volunteer for organizations of your choice.
- You can register to vote [here](#) if you are a Virginia resident and US Citizen. If you are a resident in another state, more information about registering to vote can be found [here](#).
- You can find contact information for your [Virginia](#) and [Federal](#) elected officials, or the [White House](#), to contact them and voice your opinion. [Here](#) are some tips for contacting elected officials.
- You can write resolutions seeking to expand healthcare options at Schiffert or other protections for students. (gpps@vt.edu)
- You can sign up for information on local protests and resources through [ShoutYourAbortion](#).

For those seeking mental health resources:

- The [Women's Center at Virginia Tech](#) offers a number of resources for people of all identities that may seek support particularly in areas of gender-based violence, sexual assault, and relationship violence, offering [various support groups](#). The Women's Center also has [wellbeing resources](#) in the areas of consent, trauma, menstruation, and reproductive health. The [Ebony Women of Excellence](#) is Women's Center-run support group for women that provides a safe community of peers that allows for authenticity, empathy, and relevant problem solving, specific to their experience as Black women.
- The [Cook Counseling Center](#) at Virginia Tech can also provide services.

Mental and reproductive health and crisis support hotlines:

Organization	Phone Number/Website	Description
National Abortion Federation	1-800-772-9100	Unbiased information about abortion, options counseling, and financial assistance. For referrals to abortion providers call 1-877-257-0012.

Self-Managed Abortion; Safe & Supported	abortionpillinfo.org/	Project of Women Help Women to empower and inform women about how to use abortion pills with or without clinical support
All-Options	1-888-493-0092	Unconditional and judgment-free support for people in all their decisions, feelings, and experiences with pregnancy, parenting, adoption and abortion, before and after their decision.
Exhale	1-866-4-EXHALE	Non-judgemental counseling for people who have had an abortion.
Connect & Breathe	1-866-647-1764	A safe space to talk about abortion experiences by offering a talkline staffed by people trained to listen and provide unbiased support and encouragement of self-care.
Friends in Adoption	1-800-982-3678	A pro-choice adoption agency that can help you make the right decision.
Faith Aloud	1-888-717-5010	An organization of people of diverse religious faiths who support reproductive justice. Offers phone counseling with supportive religious clergy.
Mountain Access Brigade Support Line	1-855-888-MAB8	Staffed by doulas who are trained to offer confidential emotional support for unplanned pregnancy and abortion decisions, who are knowledgeable about issues specific to the Appalachian community.
Safe2Choose	safe2choose.org/abortion-counseling	Offers live chat and email counseling Monday-Friday to help connect folks to information, options, and care providers.
National Sexual Assault Hotline	1-800-656-HOPE	A range of free services for survivors of sexual assault, including confidential support from a trained staff member, counseling, basic legal & medical information, and local support resources.
Women's Resource Center at the NRV	540-639-1123	Crisis line for survivors of domestic and sexual violence in the New River Valley.
National Domestic Violence Hotline	1-800-799-7233	Provides lifesaving tools and immediate support to enable victims to find safety and live lives free of abuse. Live chat.

NRVCS Crisis Hotline	540-961-8400	Free phone counseling services for the New River Valley. Suicide and crisis intervention, mental health and substance abuse information, and referrals.
Miscarriages and Abortion Hotline	1-833-246-2632	Support to self-manage your miscarriage or abortion.
Janes Due Process	866-999-5263 (call or text)	Offers information and support for any young person going through the judicial bypass process. Visit the Judicial Bypass Wiki if you're a minor living in a state with parental consent laws.
Repro Legal Helpline	844-868-2812	Confidential helpline to get information about your rights and self-managed abortion.
Reprocare	1-833-226-7821	Providing support for people having an abortion at home.

Educational Resources:

SisterSong: Reproductive Justice
Reproductive Justice Briefing Book: A Primer on RJ and Social Change
A New Vision for Our Movement for Reproductive Health, Reproductive Rights, and Reproductive Justice
Abortion in the United States: Barriers to Access
Reading Resources on Abolition & Reproductive Justice
Queering Reproductive Justice: A Toolkit
Whose Choice? How the Hyde Amendment Harms Poor Women
The Myth of Choice for Women Who Are Poor
Poor Women in the United States Don't Have Abortion Rights
The Color of Choice: White Supremacy and Reproductive Justice
The Revolution Will Not Be Funded: Beyond the Non-Profit Industrial Complex
Think You're Pregnant?
Reproaction
How to Use the Abortion Pill

[If/When/How – Lawyers for Reproductive Justice](#)

[Abortion on Our Terms](#)

[Plan C](#)

[SASS](#)

[Safe2choose](#)

[Women Help Women – Get Abortion Pills](#)

[Women on Web](#)

[Guttmacher Institute](#)

[State Facts on Abortion: Virginia](#)

[Access to Abortion](#)

[Economics of Abortion](#)

[Increasing Access to Abortion for Women in Diverse Communities](#)

[More educational resources](#) from NYC Department of Health.

[National Council of Jewish Woman](#)