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To: Interested Parties

From: NARAL Pro-Choice America Research Team

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Debunking Key Anti-Choice Narratives and Seizing the Conversation in the Wake of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* Draft Opinion Leak

Executive Summary

This week, a draft majority opinion in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Center* [leaked to the press](#), spotlighting the anti-choice Supreme Court Justices' clear intent to overrule seminal abortion rights cases *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. If made official, this extreme decision would radically shift the landscape for abortion access across the United States, with [28 states](#) likely to take action to prohibit abortion outright.

While the draft opinion purports to return the issue of abortion to the states, the reality is clear: **Anti-choice actors will not stop until abortion is completely outlawed nationwide, and their attacks on reproductive freedom and other rights won't end there.** In the wake of mass mobilization against this radical attack on reproductive freedom, anti-choice groups and politicians are doubling down on disinformation and other misleading narratives to distract the public and downplay the severity of this moment. We must combat these efforts and help audiences understand the core motivation of these extremist actors: enshrining white, patriarchal control in our country.

Anti-Choice Talking Points in Justice Alito's Draft Decision

In the leaked draft of the majority opinion, there are several instances of Justice Alito parroting anti-choice disinformation and misleading talking points. This includes false claims that "science" supports overturning *Roe*, arguments that advancements in gender equity and "safe haven" laws make abortion unnecessary, and false comparisons between *Roe* and cases that were overturned for upholding state-sanctioned racism.

For more information about these falsehoods and how to debunk them, please see the following resources:

- [Anti-Choice Amicus Briefs put Long-Standing Disinformation Narratives on Display](#)
- [Overlap Between Supreme Court Justices and Anti-Choice Talking Points During *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* Oral Arguments](#)
- [Anti-Choice Movement Doubles Down on "Pro-Science" Narratives and Disinformation](#)

Responding to Key Anti-Choice Narratives

In addition to celebrating the draft opinion and repeating false claims about being "pro-woman" and "pro-science," anti-choice leaders immediately began trying to distract the public and downplay the extremity of the decision. NARAL Research noted three strategies in particular that advocates for reproductive freedom and progressive allies must work to combat.



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Strategy #1: Spread False Narratives About “Compromise”

Knowing that the vast majority of people in the United States support Roe and the legal right to abortion, more politically calculated anti-choice group Susan B. Anthony List quickly worked to frame the draft opinion as a compromise that would return the issue of abortion [to the states](#). Meanwhile, Republican National Senatorial Committee guidance instructed GOP politicians to [falsely claim](#) that Republicans are the “compassionate, consensus-builders” and accuse Democrats of holding “extreme views.”

These narratives were immediately exposed as blatant falsehoods by leading anti-choice groups Students for Life and Live Action, who openly stated they would not stop until they achieved a [nationwide ban on abortion](#) and enshrined [radical “fetal personhood” ideology](#) into law. **It is critical to inform audiences that anti-choice groups and politicians will not stop at overturning Roe.** They will continue to work toward a world where abortion care is outlawed nationwide, patients and providers are criminalized, and access to birth control, emergency contraception, and IVF is limited or outlawed.

Strategy #2: Focus Attention on the Leak, Rather than the Opinion

To deflect attention from the radical substance of the draft opinion, the anti-choice movement began accusing [“the radical Left”](#) of orchestrating the leak with no evidence. Republican politicians, in particular, focused their attention immediately on [baselessly blaming Democrats](#) and [calling for an investigation](#) into the leak. Several anti-choice activists called for the Justice associated with the leaker to resign or [be impeached](#). Right-wing outlets such as [LifeNews.com](#) and [Newsmax](#) immediately, and without any proof, accused Justice Sonia Sotomayor and soon-to-be-Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, the only women of color confirmed to the Court, of being connected to the leak.

We cannot allow efforts to blame Democrats and baseless speculations about the source of the leak to distract the public from the real story: **Five extremist Justices have indicated they will overturn decades of settled precedent and ignore public opinion to attack reproductive freedom.** We have every indication that the Court won’t stop there—other core civil rights and liberties are [also in danger](#).

Strategy #3: Accuse Reproductive Freedom Activists of Being “Violent, Extreme, and Out of Touch”

Despite decades of polling that has consistently demonstrated majority support for Roe, Republican leadership and anti-choice groups are [falsely claiming](#) that the draft decision aligns with public opinion on abortion policy. In addition to framing reproductive freedom activists and Democrats as being the [“real extremists.”](#) they have also begun framing mobilizations against overturning Roe as [“riots”](#) and protesters as [“violent.”](#) This tactic is straight out of the right-wing playbook attacking mass protests for racial justice in 2020.

We cannot allow disinformation about protests and support for abortion to derail the public conversation. **Eight in 10 people in the United States support the legal right to abortion—the only “extreme” position is one that allows politicians and anti-choice activists to control personal decisions about pregnancy.**