



848 William Pitt Union
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Dear University Senior Leadership,

On Friday, June 24th, the Supreme Court overturned the landmark decision made in *Roe v. Wade*, thereby destroying nearly fifty years of precedent and effectively gutting the long-established and reaffirmed right to an abortion. This decision will negatively impact the 19,000 students who call our campus home and has already caused far-reaching panic and fear as to the implications this decision may have on anyone with a uterus's access to reproductive care. We know this decision doesn't reflect recent polls that show most Americans favor the right to choose, which expands to most students who reside on our campus.

Although we recognize that as a publicly funded institution, the University has to be strategic in its way to approach this decision, not taking action on an issue that will potentially have implications on important social issues such as same-sex marriage and access to contraceptives, does not align with the University's commitment to providing an educational environment that is safe and welcoming to all.

The University has an obligation to our students, faculty, and staff to do all that they can to ensure that all members of our community continue to have access to world-class healthcare, and this obligation may potentially be in danger depending on the results of the November gubernatorial elections. Hereby, we call on the University of Pittsburgh to take the following actions to meet the needs of our campus community.

ACTIONS:

- Release a public statement acknowledging the far-reaching consequences of overturning *Roe*.
 - Other publicly-funded universities have already released similar statements regarding how the decision will affect their community such as, [Temple University](#), [University of Michigan](#), and the [University of California](#).
- Reaffirm the University's commitment to supporting the health and well-being of students.
 - Students, especially those who live in states with trigger laws, will need greater access to contraceptives and other forms of reproductive care. While the future ramifications of this decision are uncertain, we know that today, the decision does not affect access to abortion in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, according to Governor Wolf.
 - Additionally, extra resources and funding should be given to the following initiatives:
 - Installing free contraceptive dispensers in all University bathrooms.
 - Expanding access to resources such as, Plan B, to be available through Student Health on the weekends
 - Creating additional peer-support platforms and group therapy sessions to help students process the recent ruling.
 - Providing additional support within the Student Health Center to answer sexual health questions.
- Create a Resource Guide:



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- A resource guide should be available for students in order to explain the ramifications of the court's decision. SGB believes that this resource guide should discuss how the University of Pittsburgh will help students who live in states with trigger laws when they are not on campus, such as during seasonal breaks. Lastly, we believe that this resource guide should provide information about how to receive reproductive care and abortion services.
- Highlight Ways to Engage in Advocacy
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 - Our right to free speech, to protest, to petition the government, to privacy, and to be treated equally in a court of law empowers SGB and the student body to use our voices to affect positive change on campus. We believe that the university must support us in this endeavor, which is why we believe that the university should promote ways for students on campus to become successful and empowered advocates for their beliefs.

Robin Kear
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