

Senator Favola's Statement on Dobbs Decision and Access to Abortion Care

(July 26, 2022)

"I am stunned and outraged over the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. This decision reverses a nearly 50-year precedent that protected a woman's right to privacy in making the most intimate decisions about her pregnancy, her health and the well-being of her family. It represents the biggest setback for women's equality in the history of the United States and relegates women to second class citizenship.

Access to abortion care will now be determined by state legislatures without the protections that are offered in the U.S. Constitution. Politicians will be making health care decisions for women. Right now, abortions are legal in Virginia within the framework of *Roe v. Wade* because the Democratic majority in the State Senate successfully fought back Republican attempts to deny women basic bodily autonomy. I believe that the current access to abortion care in Virginia needs to be protected in our State constitution. This would require that constitutional amendment language pass both bodies of the General Assembly in two consecutive sessions before it is placed before the voters for approval. Fortunately, constitutional amendment questions do not go to the Governor's desk for his sign-off. But, unless the composition of the House of Delegates changes, this constitutionally required legislative step will not be realized.

Please join this fight by committing to get involved in the political process. Congressional elections are this November. If Democrats control both chambers of Congress, we could get a national law protecting access to safe and legal abortions within the *Roe v. Wade* framework. Otherwise, the General Assembly elections in 2023 will be key to enabling Virginians to vote for a constitutional amendment."