

<https://internationalviewpoint.org/spip.php?article7645>



Abortion rights in USA

Remarks at an Emergency Reproductive Rights Rally

- News from around the world -

Publication date: Thursday 5 May 2022

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Dianne Feeley delivered these remarks at the emergency rally at the federal courthouse in downtown Detroit, May 3rd, 2022. The rally was sponsored by the Reproductive Rights Group of Michigan.

The draft U.S. Supreme Court decision for the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* case was authored by Samuel Alito, Jr. It asserts that there is no right to abortion under the 14th Amendment and therefore *Roe v. Wade* is unconstitutional. Of course neither abortion nor women are mentioned in the U.S. Constitution!

But since the 1960s, the Court has ruled that states do not have the right to make laws about the intimate decisions people make, including:

- Interracial marriage (*Loving v. Virginia*)
- Birth control (*Griswold v. CT*)
- Abortion (*Roe v. Wade*)
- Gay sex/what kinds of sex are permitted (*Lawrence v. TX*)
- Same sex marriage (*Obergefell v. Hodges*)

The 14th Amendment, an amendment rooted in the end of slavery and Reconstruction, prohibits states from depriving "any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law."

So while the rightwing seeks to give fetus's personhood at conception, they demand that persons have no right to make decisions over our bodies, our lives.

Why do they seek to deny us rights? Are we not persons? Having control over one's body is a pre-requisite to being fully human

Rightwing legislators are in a frenzy passing legislation—with Arizona, Florida and Kentucky passing bans at 15 weeks, copying the Mississippi law; with Texas, Oklahoma and Idaho banning abortions at 6 weeks. State legislatures have been busy over the past year passing these along with 100 other laws challenging *Roe v. Wade*.

Without *Roe v. Wade*, Michigan is one of nine states with antiquated laws that would immediately go into effect. Our 1931 law criminalizes those who perform abortions.

Before 1973, the women's movement called for free abortion on demand, 24-hour childcare available to all, opposition to sterilization abuse and equal pay for equal work. We testified at legislative hearings, brought class-action lawsuits, organized speak outs and tribunals, picketed and marched, built networks of support for those who needed underground abortions, told our stories and reached out to women internationally.

We will not accept a Supreme Court or its decisions that violate our human rights. We will not allow our rights to be taken away in Michigan, rights that those living in California have.

Here in Michigan we will work to put a petition on the November ballot that adds the range of reproductive rights to our state constitution, extending not contracting control over our lives.

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3 May 2022

Source [Solidarity](#).

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