

*In Regards to the Supreme Court Decision of Dobbs vs. Jackson*

The Latino Medical Student Association - Northeast was established with the goal of addressing inequities within our healthcare system and advocating for the rights of Latino patients. We believe that the Supreme Court's decision on *Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization* stands in opposition to the values of our organization, and will lead to greater disparities in reproductive health and maternal mortality and morbidity facing the Latino community.

Comprehensive abortion care is an essential part of health care that must be easily accessible to all peoples. Currently, the rates of unintended pregnancy, abortion, and maternal mortality are the highest among Black and Hispanic women and women of lower socioeconomic status. Allowing states to set individual abortion policies, including complete bans on abortion with no exceptions, will result in an increase in the inequities that face our community. The restrictions will force pregnant persons to face life-threatening pregnancy-related complications and to seek unsafe methods of abortion. Additionally, this decision stands in opposition of the patient-physician relationship, creating a barrier to honest communication between patients and physicians and taking away the right to shared decision making.

In light of the Court's decision, LMSA-NE reaffirms its mission of advocating for the rights of Latino patients and will continue to support both patients and physicians in the fight for equal access to healthcare. We will continue to advocate for the right to safe, legal, and accessible abortions.