

To the greatest chapter of AILA,

The U.S. Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*'s 50-year-old precedent is devastating. As practitioners, we've relied on historic precedent such as this as a basic cornerstone of liberty and equality – the very fundamental rights that so many of our clients are searching for when they come to the United States. Today's decision should serve as a wake-up call for anyone who has not yet connected the struggle for reproductive rights with the ongoing criminalization and abandonment of our immigrant communities.

Throughout our Nation's history, the federal government has systematically targeted immigrants and racial minorities for their reproductive choices. For example, as recently as 2017, we saw an attempt by the Office of Refugee Resettlement to block immigrant children from accessing abortion care, even in cases where their pregnancy was the result of rape. Less than three years later, we learned that forced sterilizations were likely being performed on immigrants at the Irwin County Detention Center in Ocilla, Georgia. And to this day, the federal government continues to unnecessarily detain pregnant immigrants in unsanitary and inhumane conditions where they are denied necessary medical care.

The States have also been criminalizing pregnancy outcomes and denying access to abortion care well before the fall of *Roe v. Wade*, even in places like Minnesota where abortion remains legal. Because of today's decision, existing barriers are much higher and the risks to pregnant people – especially those who are subject to disproportionate criminalization and possible deportation – are much greater. (specifically

thinking of our chapter member-state, South Dakota, whose trigger laws have now taken effect).

As a chapter, we will keep fighting to protect the interests of all immigrants in Minnesota, North and South Dakota, and to support our colleagues' challenges to jailing and oppression of immigrants nationwide. Pregnant immigrants will never see justice under a regime that disappears them, separates them from their families, and systematically robs them of their bodily autonomy. As members of ExCom, we will also continue to keep our members informed about the ways in which they can remain engaged and the steps that AILA takes moving forward. We value and appreciate the differences between all our members, so thank you for existing and being a part of this amazing legal community and chapter.