



Undergraduate Student  
Government  
Statement re: *Overtturn of  
Roe v. Wade*

July 5, 2022

Huskies,

On Friday, June 24, the Supreme Court made the decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, which eliminated the federal constitutional right to abortion. Since 1973, *Roe v. Wade* has promoted the rights of people to receive an abortion during the first two trimesters of pregnancy. With the decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, states have the ability to determine access to abortion. We recognize how this might affect out-of-state students, with twenty-two states already having laws or amendments to ban abortion.

This Supreme Court decision will have a disparate impact on Black, Indigenous, People of Color, low-income, and marginalized populations. Systemic racism causes disparities in healthcare and access to contraceptives, leading to a higher maternal mortality rate and risk of unintended pregnancy for marginalized women, among other detrimental effects. In addition, geographic access, affordability, and cultural and linguistic barriers prevent people from accessing sexual and reproductive healthcare.

We want to remind the students at the University of Connecticut that the Undergraduate Student Government distributes resources and refers students to services provided by SHaW, the UConn Pharmacy, the Women's Center, and off-campus facilities. These sexual and reproductive healthcare services include Plan B, contraception, and emotional support.

#### Abortions in Connecticut

Access to abortion has been legal in Connecticut since 1990 for in-state and out-of-state residents. Parental consent is not required. On July 1st, a reproductive rights bill (HB 5414) signed by Governor Lamont will expand the types of medical care providers who can administer abortions in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. The bill also protects out-of-state patients seeking abortions in Connecticut and shields medical care providers from lawsuits on the basis of other states' abortion laws.

Student Health and Wellness (SHaW)

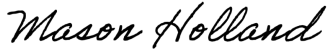
USG funds reproductive healthcare services available to all undergraduate UConn students free of charge, and one of these services is Plan B. Students of all ages and genders only need to show their UConn ID at the Student Health and Wellness Center Pharmacy, located in the Hilda May Williams Student Health Services building. Learn more about Plan B and other SHAW services [here](#).

Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)

The Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) is a resource for survivors of sexual assault. Available 24 hours a day during the school year, the response team can arrange for meetings with a sexual assault crisis counselor, provide free sexual assault forensics exams within 120 hours of the assault, assist with hospital transportation, and arrange for free examinations at SHAW, including free STD testing, free antibiotic medications to prevent STDs, and emergency contraception. Learn more about SART [here](#).

The Women's Center

The Women's Center, located on the fourth floor of the Student Union, provides services including crisis intervention, information for sexual assault survivors to take steps through the University, police, and medical assistance, support for survivors of sexual misconduct and relationship violence during stalking investigations and/or hearings, and referrals to other resources. Learn more about the Women's Center [here](#).

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