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Hawaii Attorney General Connors Joins Coalition Challenging Mississippi's Effort to Overturn Aspects of *Roe v. Wade*

HONOLULU – Hawaii Attorney General Clare E. Connors joined a coalition of 24 state attorneys general urging the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold its precedent protecting a woman's right to decide before viability whether to carry a pregnancy to term. In an amicus brief filed with the Court, the coalition argues that Mississippi's pre-viability abortion ban is unconstitutional. In 1973, the Supreme Court ruled in *Roe v. Wade* that the Constitution does not permit States to prohibit a woman from deciding before viability whether to carry her pregnancy to term. That ruling was affirmed in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* in 1992 and reaffirmed in the following decades. In this brief, the coalition argues that Mississippi's ban is unconstitutional under settled law, and that the Court should continue to uphold this well-established precedent.

"The Supreme Court long ago resolved the question of whether reproductive health choices made before the point of fetal viability are constitutional. They are." Attorney General Connors said. "Abandoning long-standing precedent would profoundly harm our citizens by creating distress, uncertainty and materially worse health outcomes for women and families."

In March 2018, the governor of Mississippi signed into law what was then the strictest abortion ban in the Nation. The law prohibits abortion at 15 weeks, with few exceptions, even in cases of rape or incest. A federal district court judge struck down the law stating that Mississippi "chose to pass a law it knew was unconstitutional...to ask the Supreme Court to overturn *Roe v. Wade*." The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit affirmed the district court's ruling.

Mississippi's attempt to undo decades of Supreme Court precedent comes amidst years of attempts by other States to strip Americans of their right to decide what is best for their bodies and futures. This year alone, 10 states have enacted bans on pre-viability abortions and in total, 16 states have now enacted pre-viability abortion bans.

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In filing the brief, Attorney General Connors joined the attorneys general of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, the District of Columbia.

A copy of the brief is available [here](#).

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