



Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization (S. Ct.)

Topics Covered: Reproductive Health & Abortion

Issue

The issue in this case is whether a Mississippi law that bans abortion procedures after the fifteenth week of pregnancy is constitutional.

AMA Interest

The AMA opposes laws regulating medical care that are unsupported by scientific evidence and that impede, rather than serve, public health objectives. Further, the AMA believes physicians should have the right to provide medical care, including abortion procedures, according to their best medical judgment and according to accepted medical standards. Finally, the AMA believes that physicians’ paramount responsibilities are to their patients.

Case Summary

In 2018, Jackson Women’s Health Organization, a clinic and abortion facility in Mississippi, challenged the constitutionality of the state’s “Gestational Age Act” in federal court. The law prohibits abortions after the fifteenth week of pregnancy except in cases of medical emergencies or fetal abnormalities.

The federal district court in Mississippi enjoined the law and granted summary judgment in favor of the plaintiffs, holding that the law was unconstitutional. On appeal, the Fifth Circuit affirmed the district court’s ruling. Mississippi petitioned for *certiorari* and the Supreme Court granted review. This is the first time the Court will rule on the constitutionality of a pre-viability abortion ban since *Roe v. Wade*.

AMA Involvement

The AMA, along with ACOG and nearly 30 other organizations, filed an *amicus* brief in the Supreme Court to support the abortion provider and discuss the medical information and ethical issues impacted by Mississippi’s ban.

United States Supreme Court Brief