

Academic Senate Resolution in Support of Reproductive Freedom

Whereas in 1973, the Supreme Court of the United States, deciding in the case of [Roe v. Wade](#), determined that the right to an abortion is protected under the 14th Amendment's Due Process Clause; and

Whereas in September, 2021, the Supreme Court of the United States failed to block the implementation of Texas's SB8, a law impacting [1 in 10 women of reproductive age](#) in the United States; and

Whereas Mississippi...**need words here**...“At the crux of the legal argument made by the state of Mississippi, which is seeking to overturn *Roe*, is that the U.S. Constitution is neutral on the matter of abortion – meaning the power to regulate it should rest in the hands of individual states” ([NPR article](#))

Whereas, “Twenty-**six** states are poised to immediately ban or acutely curtail access to abortions if the Supreme Court chooses to overturn or weaken *Roe v. Wade*” ([NPR article](#): quoted) ([Guttmacher Institute: quoted in NPR](#))

Whereas the [United Nation's asserted in 2020](#) the following position: “STATES HAVE OBLIGATIONS TO RESPECT, PROTECT AND FULFILL WOMEN'S RIGHTS RELATED TO ABORTION SERVICES **RESPECT** States should remove legal provisions, including criminal laws, which penalize women who have undergone abortion or medical practitioners who offer these services. **PROTECT** States must organize their health system to ensure that women are not prevented from accessing health services by health professionals' exercise of conscientious objection. For example, where abortion is legal, if a doctor refuses to perform it, the health system must refer women to an alternative health care provider. **FULFILL** States must take steps to ensure access to appropriate health-care services for women and 'to eliminate such barriers to the provision of abortion services and that lead women to resort to unsafe abortions, including eliminating unacceptable delays in providing medical attention;” and

Whereas [Human Rights Watch](#) has stated the following with regard to the Texas's SB8, which prohibits almost all forms of abortion services after the first 6 weeks of pregnancy: “Texans with resources may be able to travel to other states ([or Mexico](#)) for care, or find ways to end a pregnancy outside of the health system. But the consequences could be dire for [young people](#), people living in poverty, migrants, Black, Indigenous, and other people of color who already face many [barriers](#) to abortion care due to mandatory waiting periods, [forced parental consent](#), and other restrictions;” and

Whereas, the State of California issued a [Proclamation on Reproductive Freedom](#) in 2019, and Governor Newsome issued a [statement in opposition](#) to Texas's new law in September 2021;

Be it resolved that MPC's Academic Senate affirms its support for students' reproductive freedom and access to abortion and other family planning services; and

Be it resolved that MPC's Academic Senate opposes any laws which infringe upon a student's privacy and self-determination with regards to reproductive rights; and

Be it resolved that MPC's Academic Senate supports Student Health Services' efforts to provide information, resources, and/or referrals to students about their reproductive options.