

Response to leaked Supreme Court vote to overturn abortion rights, draft opinion

PHOENIX – **Black Political Cultivation Arizona**, an all-Black and queer-inclusive collective organizing for the transformation of Black peoples' quality of life, draws attention to a fact that must be remembered amidst panic inspired by the news: **abortion is still legal in the state of Arizona**. Although the Supreme Court's leaked draft opinion to overturn *Roe v. Wade* is incredibly alarming, it is **not** yet a final order of the Court. However, the day may come very soon when access to safe abortion becomes completely illegal—and Arizonans will be more severely impacted by this outcome than people in any other state.

Criminalizing abortions does not stop them from happening—it only puts the lives of people who can become pregnant at risk. If the Court executes this decision, due to the patchwork of state laws already in place to immediately restrict reproductive rights, more people than ever will be forced to travel hundreds of miles out of state, or carry pregnancies to term against their will. Access to healthcare should not be a privilege associated with socio-economic status, but a fundamental human right for all. We will never accept forced pregnancy, a dire violation of our rights, as the law of the land. We will secure Reproductive Justice for our people.

This leaked draft decision shows us what we already know: the Justices on the Supreme Court continue to display their utter disregard for people who need abortions. As we watch the Court bow down to the whims of White Supremacists and extremists, it has never been more clear that we are in a generational fight to make sure everyone has the **power to control their own bodies, lives, and futures**. We deserve officials at all levels of government who are accountable to the fact that the opportunity to either protect or eradicate the freedoms of millions of people is in their hands. Considering that we are already in a crisis for Black maternal mortality, the only decision that protects Black Lives is the one that permanently secures our right to chose for ourselves, and to be able to access safe and legal reproductive healthcare that includes abortion.

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