

**From:** [LCOM Office of the Dean](#)  
**To:** [Gilwee, Vicki M](#)  
**Subject:** Larner College of Medicine Statement Following Supreme Court of the United States Ruling  
**Date:** Friday, June 24, 2022 3:06:14 PM

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Dear Larner Community,

While the decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court are rarely topics for discussion in our setting of healthcare and medical education, today's ruling in the case of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, though anticipated for some weeks after the unprecedented leak of an early draft, lands at last with deep reverberations across the nation for patients and healthcare providers.

Acknowledging the very strong divisions that exist on the issue at hand in today's ruling, we feel it incumbent to reiterate the perspectives that have long been expressed by medical educators and healthcare providers throughout our country, by affirming the critical place of the physician-patient relationship, and the need for decisions about safe, sound and effective medical care to be matters solely between the patient and their physician. In this context the Larner College of Medicine affirms its commitment to educating all of our students and trainees regarding the ethical and practical considerations of early pregnancy care including issues of contraception, conception (both spontaneous and assisted), as well as informed decisions around management of ongoing pregnancies.

Respect for the patient-physician relationship is the basis for our state's [Act 47](#), passed in June of 2019. It also aligns with [the public statement Governor Phil Scott issued](#) in reaction to the leak in May of the *Dobbs* draft opinion.

Situations in which the physician-patient relationship is not given primacy will inherently create risk for patients and increase inequity in health care delivery across our society, at a time when our focus should be on eliminating the barriers that exist and expanding the delivery of quality care to all.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Page, M.D.  
Dean

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