

UAW Local 4121 Resolution on Reproductive Justice

Proposed by the Solidarity & Mobilization Workgroup & approved at the 5/12/22 Membership Meeting.

WHEREAS the May 2nd leak of Alito's majority opinion draft decision on Dobbs v. Jackson confirmed what many have expected: the almost fifty-year legal precedent of Roe v. Wade will likely soon be overturned. This is an attack on human rights, the right to privacy, and bodily autonomy that affects everybody, and requires a rapid, sustained, and powerful response from our community.

WHEREAS in the highly likely scenario in which this draft decision becomes final, there will be devastating and wide-reaching public health, economic, and social consequences. The overturning of this precedent, alongside the [onslaught of a record number of anti-abortion laws passed in recent years \(including "trigger bans" that would partially or fully ban abortion in a certain state should Roe v. Wade be overturned\)](#), will further restrict abortion access and reproductive rights with no regard for the health and safety of those most affected. Decades of research show that the inability to obtain a wanted abortion results in adverse economic, physical, mental, and social implications for individuals, families, and communities.

WHEREAS anti-abortion laws have always been rooted in white supremacy. This isn't an isolated event, but an extension of a long & recent histories of intersecting structural oppression including decades of legislation to limit reproductive healthcare access particularly to low-income communities, communities of color, and marginalized community members in rural areas; recent surges in attacks on trans and queer youth; and more. The ongoing and increasing criminalization of abortion expands the carceral power of the state, disproportionately harming Black, Indigenous, migrant, disabled, working class, and trans people.

WHEREAS reproductive justice is, and should be, an issue for everyone because everyone is impacted when anyone's basic bodily autonomy is restricted. Reproductive justice – a term coined by Black women in the 1990s that encompasses the frameworks of human rights, social justice and reproductive rights – recognizes people's rights to have or not have children and to raise children in safe and healthy environments. Further, access to legal and safe abortions directly impacts not only cis women, but anyone who is able to become pregnant – which includes many non-binary people and trans men.

WHEREAS as a labor union, we understand the need for direct, decisive action when our rights are in jeopardy, and that reproductive rights *are* workers' rights. Our most powerful ability to respond comes from our ability to come together and take rapid, unified action. This is how we won Roe v. Wade in the first place – huge movements of regular working people, including strikes, unionization efforts, collective actions, campaigns to fight sexism in the workplace, and more. We deserve a political system that centers the voices and decisions of working and vulnerable people, and that prioritizes caring for our well-being. It's going to take every member getting involved to generate the kind of broad collective power we need to make that happen.

WHEREAS following the release of the draft decision, we took immediate steps as a union toward protecting access to reproductive healthcare in our communities. We endorsed the National Mobilization for Reproductive Justice campaign and contributed \$1500 to the

Northwest Abortion Access Fund. On May 3rd, we joined thousands of others for the Rally to Defend Roe v. Wade, organized by Seattle City Councilmember Kshama Sawant and Seattle Democratic Socialists of America. To sustain a bottom line on organizing around reproductive justice on an ongoing basis, we created a Solidarity & Mobilization Workgroup (SMWG) within our union.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY WE, MEMBERS OF UAW 4121:

THAT we commit to taking action to win reproductive justice as fundamentally trans inclusive, anti-racist, and intersectional work. We will encourage fellow members to join the newly formed Solidarity and Mobilization Workgroup (SMWG) to help build this work on an ongoing basis.

THAT we will work to turn fellow members out for direct actions and mass mobilizations – including but not limited to the weekend of May 13-15th. The SMWG will coordinate this work using tools such as membership emails, social media, and member-to-member organizing.

THAT the SMWG will continue organizing on an ongoing basis, in coordination with other students, community groups, & unions. This includes, but is not limited to: continuing outreach to other groups to develop coalitional organizing and mass participation; working with other relevant unions to submit resolutions on reproductive justice to (a) MLK Labor and (b) the UAW International Constitutional Convention; planning for escalating tactics, day of decision actions, and actions to continue after a potential decision is issued; reviving the UAW 4121 rapid mobilization network; and maintaining a central webpage for ongoing information and action.

THAT we will encourage members & other unions to contribute to local reproductive justice organizations like the [Northwest Abortion Access Fund](#) and [Surge Reproductive Justice](#).

THAT we will not be complicit in the criminalization of abortion in the hospitals, schools, or departments in which we work. In particular, we will urge UW departmental and university leadership to make public statements that support upholding Roe v. Wade, affirm abortion rights for all, and denounce the criminalization of all health care, including abortion, contraception, and gender-affirming care.

THAT we call on Congress to immediately act to codify abortion rights into law. We also call on city, county, and state elected officials to pass legislation that expands reproductive rights and services, such as paid time off for reproductive care, increasing funding to bolster health system capacity to provide reproductive health care to expected influx of people seeking care, and allocating funds to support Washingtonians and those from other states seeking abortion in Washington. For instance, recent examples include: the [resolution raised by Seattle City Councilmember Kshama Sawant](#) and passed on 5/10/22; resolutions passed in [New York City](#), [Portland](#), and [Austin](#); and [legislation passed in Oregon](#) allocating \$15 million to expanded reproductive access.

THAT a copy of this resolution be published on our UAW 4121 homepage and included in our next membership email with additional information and resources.