

AACHC STATEMENT ON SUPREME COURT RULING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 24, 2022

The Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers' (the Alliance) mission is to support the delivery of comprehensive, culturally competent, high-quality primary healthcare services to all Arizonans. We represent Arizona's Community Health Centers (CHCs) and the 740,000 patients they serve across the state in both rural and urban communities.

While health centers serve everyone, the majority of CHC patients live in medically underserved areas and often have limited resources. The U.S. Supreme Court's recent ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* will lead to further restrictions on the reproductive health of Arizonans' and will disproportionately affect individuals who already have limited access to care.

The Court's ruling will impede the ability of patients to make their own health decisions, risking both their physical and mental health. These changes will exacerbate existing societal disparities, increase social isolation, and increase threats to housing, food security, and employment for Arizona's families – furthering the likelihood of perpetual poverty.

The Court's ruling creates significant uncertainty with the status of multiple reproductive health laws in Arizona. While there are differing opinions, the critical shortage of healthcare providers in Arizona may intensify if providers, especially primary care and OB/GYNs, choose to leave the state in opposition of the law's limitation on access to care. For rural communities, the impact may be greater if communities lose their already limited number of primary care providers.

The Alliance's position is to support access for all by ensuring Community Health Centers and other safety-net providers have the support they need to meet patient needs and continue their ongoing compliance with the Hyde Amendment. We will continue our focus on providing access to high-quality, comprehensive care for everyone to support healthy communities across Arizona.

For more information:

Jennifer J. Burns

Senior Director of Government & Media Relations

JenniferB@aachc.org

602-288-7547

[This statement is made by AACHC and does not represent the view of any individual health center.]

The Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers (AACHC) is the Primary Care Association for the State of Arizona. AACHC provides training and technical assistance to Arizona's Community Health Centers (CHC) in support of their mission to deliver comprehensive, culturally competent, high-quality primary health care services to all Arizonans. AACHC represents Arizona's CHCs who serve low-income, vulnerable, and underserved patients in rural and urban communities across the state. Arizona's CHCs serve 740,000 patients annually, which represents over 10% of Arizona's population. Community Health Centers provide primary care services including medical, dental, behavioral health, and pharmacy.