

WOMEN'S RIGHTS COMMITTEE

Committee Chair: Karla Hernandez-Mats, United Teachers of Dade,
Local 1974

Committee Secretary: Hope Wyatt, Norwalk Federation of Education
Personnel, Local 3793

**53. REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AND THE PROTECTION
OF WOMEN**

Committee recommends concurrence as amended below.

- 1 WHEREAS, the American Federation of Teachers is committed to
2 ensuring that women, girls and others who can become pregnant
3 maintain their reproductive choice and have access to all reproductive
4 health services, as far back as a 1981 policy resolution; and
5 WHEREAS, bodily autonomy is essential to liberty, dignity, equality
6 and self-determination; and
7 WHEREAS, the right to liberty is guaranteed under the U.S.
8 Constitution; and
9 WHEREAS, ~~at this juncture it appears the~~ on June 24, 2022, six
10 United States Supreme Court justices, three of whom testified in their
11 confirmation hearings that Roe was "settled law," issued an
12 outrageous, radical and extreme decision in will use the Dobbs v.
13 Jackson Women's Health Organization to overturn long-standing
14 precedent in *Roe v. Wade*; and
15 WHEREAS, this decision takes away already established rights for
16 women; this ruling will undermine all other freedoms and disparage
17 women as second-class citizens; and
18 WHEREAS, pregnancy-related mortality in the United States
19 affects approximately 700 women per year at various stages of
20 gestation, with one-third of pregnancy-related deaths occurring during
21 pregnancy, one-third occurring at delivery or one week after, and one-
22 third occurring one week to one year postpartum, per the Centers for
23 Disease Control and Prevention; and
24 WHEREAS, women of color are the primary victims of pregnancy-
25 related mortality despite their minority representation in the general
26 population, with Black women accounting for 41.7 percent, Indigenous
27 women accounting for 28.3 percent, Asian and Pacific Islander women
28 accounting for 13.8 percent, and Hispanic or Latino women accounting
29 for 11.6 percent, per the CDC; and
30 ~~WHEREAS, pregnancy and child rearing are a lifelong~~
31 ~~responsibility, and their own source of trauma, which should not be~~
32 ~~forced on victims of existing trauma or people otherwise unwilling or~~
33 ~~unable to assume this responsibility; and~~
34 WHEREAS, procreation and child rearing are personal and intimate
35 matters fundamental to our freedom and our aspirations, are lifelong
36 responsibilities, and should not be imposed by the state against the

WOMEN'S RIGHTS COMMITTEE

37 express consent of the individual or forced on people who have been
38 traumatized or who are otherwise unwilling or unable to assume this
39 responsibility; and

40 WHEREAS, several states, including Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas,
41 Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, New Hampshire, Ohio,
42 Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee and Texas, have enacted or are
43 contemplating ultra-restrictive abortion bans without exemptions for
44 rape, incest, or human trafficking ~~even for people as young as 13~~
45 regardless of age; and

46 WHEREAS, having the right to decide when and whether to
47 reproduce is associated with better relationship stability and
48 satisfaction, the likelihood of completing a college education, more
49 work experience, and greater earning potential among women, which
50 contributes to a well-functioning society, and where freedom has been
51 recognized in law as the ability of a person to have agency over one of
52 the most fundamental and intimate decisions one can make—when
53 and whether and with whom to have a child.:

54 ~~RESOLVED, that the American Federation of Teachers~~
55 ~~acknowledges that this is a precarious time for the right to~~
56 ~~reproductive freedom, individual autonomy and self-~~
57 ~~determination; and~~

58 ~~RESOLVED, that the AFT stands in solidarity with will defend~~
59 ~~the rights of our members and all women, girls and people others~~
60 ~~who can become pregnant against forced birth, and the AFT calls~~
61 ~~on the Senate and state lawmakers and voters to codify the right~~
62 ~~to choose abortion established by Roe v. Wade into federal and~~
63 ~~state law as is being done in California, Michigan and New York.~~
64 ~~We join them in calls to protect reproductive freedom at the state~~
65 ~~and federal levels via codification and executive action of Roe v.~~
66 ~~Wade; and~~

67 ~~RESOLVED, that the AFT will work to secure reproductive~~
68 ~~freedom throughout the nation by working with lawmakers,~~
69 ~~candidates, advocacy groups and activists to support legislative~~
70 ~~efforts and executive action at the state and federal levels; and~~

71 ~~RESOLVED, that the AFT calls for a Week of Action for~~
72 ~~Reproductive Freedom in September, and the AFT will use~~
73 ~~personal, political and economic means at our disposal to support~~
74 ~~the mobilization of our members in teach-ins, sit-ins, walk-ins,~~
75 ~~rallies and demonstrations, especially those led by impacted~~
76 ~~communities, to educate the public about this erosion of their~~
77 ~~basic rights; and~~

78 ~~RESOLVED, that the AFT will use its voice in support of~~
79 ~~initiatives promoting access to reproductive care; and~~

80 ~~RESOLVED, that the AFT will use its voice to lend support to~~
81 ~~initiatives nationwide calling to prevent fight the criminalization of~~

82 ~~any reproductive healthcare, including patients seeking care,~~
83 ~~abortion providers, counselors, advocates, family members and~~
84 ~~friends who provide advice or transportation; and~~

85 RESOLVED, that the AFT will engage our members in local and
86 statewide organizing and get-out-the-vote efforts in the 2022
87 midterm elections to elect candidates who reflect our values and
88 respect the right of people to make their own decisions about
89 when, whether and with whom to have a child, including through
90 activist and volunteer recruitment, voter registration,
91 phonebanks, text-a-thons, door-to-door canvassing, workplace
92 conversations, ballot chase efforts, election turnout activities and
93 voter protection, to ensure their elected leaders respect and
94 defend their fundamental freedoms.

95 ~~RESOLVED, that the AFT will work with current and future~~
96 ~~lawmakers at both the state and federal levels to codify into law~~
97 ~~rights that ensure women equal access to comprehensive~~
98 ~~reproductive healthcare.~~

- Adopted Adopted as Amended Defeated Tabled
 Precluded by _____ Referred to _____

54. SAVE ROE V. WADE, THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY, AND AMERICAN DEMOCRACY ITSELF

Precluded by recommendation of concurrence with Resolution #53

1 WHEREAS, the Supreme Court 1973 decision in *Roe v. Wade*
2 established that a woman has the fundamental right to make decisions
3 over her own body; and

4 WHEREAS, the leaked draft opinion, written by Samuel Alito on
5 behalf of Clarence Thomas and the three Trump-nominated associate
6 justices—Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett—
7 would overturn *Roe v. Wade*, and represents one of the grossest
8 violations of the rights of women to make intimate and private decisions
9 about their bodies and whether to carry a pregnancy to term or not, as
10 well as to make decisions about their private lives without government
11 regulation and interference; and

12 WHEREAS, the Supreme Court is thoroughly compromised. The
13 three Trump associate justices constitute an ongoing far right-wing
14 coup inside the nation's highest judicial body, and clearly intend to use
15 their undemocratic power to overturn progressive legislation for
16 decades to come; and

17 WHEREAS, the Trump movement aims to create an American
18 government completely subservient to the interests of a section of

19 America’s giant corporations and wealthiest individuals, without any
20 meaningful constitutional or democratic restraints on the use of
21 governmental power to serve their purposes. Trump’s three Supreme
22 Court appointees and far right-wing control of the court are pivotal to
23 the Trump movement achieving its objectives; and

24 WHEREAS, electoralism alone cannot provide a solution to this
25 crisis. Even if the Democrats pass state or federal legislation to uphold
26 abortion rights, those laws will be challenged by the Trump movement
27 and inevitably brought before this Supreme Court. The new civil rights
28 and labor movement can defeat these attacks through mobilizing our
29 members and supporters to take mass action across the country to
30 maintain *Roe v. Wade* and defend women and all Americans from this
31 fundamental attack on civil and human rights:

32 **RESOLVED, that the American Federation of Teachers will use**
33 **all means at our disposal to defend reproductive freedom and *Roe***
34 ***v. Wade*; and**

35 **RESOLVED, that the AFT will defend AFT members and**
36 **students who need access to abortions and birth control; and**

37 **RESOLVED, that the AFT demands that Biden increase the**
38 **number of Supreme Court justices, and/or impeach the justices**
39 **who went against their sworn testimony to not overturn *Roe v.***
40 ***Wade*; and**

41 **RESOLVED, that the AFT calls for an end of the Senate**
42 **filibuster that is being used now, as it has in the past, to maintain**
43 **white privilege and Jim Crow laws and to block progressive**
44 **legislation.**

- Adopted Adopted as Amended Defeated Tabled
- Precluded by _____ Referred to _____

**55. SUPPORTING ABORTION RIGHTS IN THE FACE OF
ATTACKS ON ROE V. WADE**

**Precluded by recommendation of concurrence with Resolution
#53**

1 WHEREAS, the American Federation of Teachers, an
2 overwhelmingly women’s organization, has long been on record as a
3 pro-choice union that supports a woman’s right to reproductive
4 freedom, including the right to abortion; and

5 WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the United States has clearly
6 indicated its intention to strike down *Roe v. Wade* in its current session,
7 and a substantial number of states have already enacted or plan to
8 enact draconian restrictions on a woman’s right to choose if and when
9 they will have a child:

WOMEN'S RIGHTS COMMITTEE

10 **RESOLVED, that the American Federation of Teachers will**
11 **publicly stand in defense of abortion and reproductive rights for**
12 **all people who can be pregnant and will encourage its members**
13 **to participate in activities, including rallies and demonstrations,**
14 **lobbying and political campaigns, educational events and other**
15 **actions to support the right to abortion, contraception and other**
16 **reproductive rights.**

- Adopted Adopted as Amended Defeated Tabled
 Precluded by _____ Referred to _____