June 24, 2022

Greater Columbus Right to Life

Beth Vanderkooi: 614-445-8508

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**United States Supreme Court Overturns Roe vs Wade**

*The following can be attributed to Beth Vanderkooi, executive director of Greater Columbus Right to Life:*

It is fitting that we gather today in the Ladies’ Gallery of the Ohio Statehouse, a space set aside to celebrate the political advancements of women and to acknowledge the ongoing fight to secure the political and human rights of women.

Today the United States Supreme Court has overturned what history will see as one of the great injustices of our republic: a contrived Supreme Court decision that systematically prohibited states from passing laws to protect the lives of innocent human persons. It is a good first step, but we will not rest until we have protected the dignity of every human life - born and unborn, and dismantled the lie that abortion is integral to the rights and equality of women. The first because it is a truth of the highest order and the latter because it is a lie from the pits of Hell.

For many, today is not a day of celebration but of fear and uncertainty. Abortion continues to perpetuate the systemic injustices that have been used to discriminate against woman due to the nature of human reproduction. True advocates for women’s rights would work together to bring down these injustices rather than tell women that their path to equality, liberty, and success rests on the dismembered bodies of their children. To those, I offer my sincere pledge that our work with life-affirming organizations and churches will continue to meet vulnerable women, children and families with friendship, love, and accompaniment, and that I will always fight to secure more rights and more freedom for more people – including the smallest among us.

To those celebrating today, this is not the end of our work. It is truly only the beginning. A court decision or the enactment of a law will not eliminate the political efforts to expand and enshrine abortion in the laws and hearts of our people. Moreover, it does not eliminate the very real problems and challenges of unexpected or distressing pregnancies. We need to continue and expand the work that we are already doing to meet women in their need, walk with them, and help to build more solid families and futures.

To those in the media and public square, abortion does not solve the very real problems related to poverty, educational attainment, substance abuse, mental health, human trafficking, domestic violence, loneliness, or the myriad of other challenges often used to justify a “need” for abortion. While life-affirming organizations have built a framework to support and empower women and families in those circumstances, abortion providers and advocates offer them one solution: termination of their pregnancies and dead babies.

We can and will offer better solutions that affirm the dignity of all human persons, from conception until natural death.

###