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ATTORNEY GENERAL SLATERY RELEASES STATEMENT FOLLOWING DOBBS DECISION

Nashville- Attorney General Herbert H. Slatery III issued the following statement following the U.S. Supreme Court's [decision](#) in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*.

"Today, the United States Supreme Court issued its decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. It overruled the *Roe* and *Casey* decisions establishing a federal constitutional right to have an abortion. Today's decision restores to the states their authority to regulate and prohibit abortion.

Tennesseans, through the affirmative vote of their elected representatives, amended the Constitution a few years ago to confirm that the Tennessee Constitution does not provide a right to an abortion and leaves the issue up to the General Assembly.

As a result of today's ruling:

- I will notify the Tennessee Code Commission in writing that *Roe* and *Casey* have been overruled, as required by statute.
- We have asked the full Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals to stay the district court's injunction of the timing provisions in our heartbeat abortion law, so that the law will go into effect as soon as possible.
- In 30 days, after issuance of the judgment, the 2019 Human Life Protection Act should go into effect in Tennessee.

To state the obvious: *Dobbs* is a momentous decision. Our republic is founded on the rule of law. Accordingly, we give respect and deference to the Court on occasions when its decisions align and support our state laws, **and** in cases when a decision might be contrary to Tennessee state law and what the majority of Tennesseans want, as was the case with the 2015 *Obergefell* decision.

Most importantly, after nearly 50 years, today's decision gives the people of Tennessee a say on what the Court called 'a profound moral issue.'"

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