

## THE OVERTURNING OF ROE V. WADE

June 28, 2022

Dear MassArt Faculty, Students, and Staff,

Friday's decision by the U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS) to overturn Roe v. Wade effectively eliminated a woman's right to make decisions about her own body and health. By reversing 50 years of precedent, the court decision states that the United States Constitution does not confer the right to an abortion, thereby leaving the authority to regulate abortion up to the states.

Since Friday, states across the country have already begun to take next steps. In Massachusetts, we have a long history of guaranteeing access to reproductive rights – and through the passage of The Roe Act in 2020, women will continue to have access to safe and legal abortions without unnecessary barriers. In immediate response to the Supreme Court ruling, Governor Baker signed an executive order to protect any abortion providers who assist patients coming from outside Massachusetts.

This Court's decision will have an overwhelming impact on marginalized communities that have been disproportionately affected due to documented and persistent health disparities, those living in poverty, rural communities, and those with limited or no access to reliable and affordable health care.

Regardless of one's personal beliefs regarding abortion, this decision does not bode well for future SCOTUS decisions regarding rights and privacy. **At MassArt, we are committed to defending reproductive freedom for our students and will continue to advocate for all women to have access to quality healthcare, including reproductive services, medications, and care.**

While infuriating and shocking, the decision is not a surprise, as it aligns with the Court's oral arguments in December and a draft opinion document that was leaked in May. In addition to the deep concern that a woman's fundamental freedom to choose and right to privacy has been denied, this ruling will likely cause further division across a country already deeply divided, increasing concern that other rights such as those around privacy, access to contraception, marriage equality, and LGBTQIA rights could also be at risk.

**We know that this decision and its ramifications will affect different people in different ways. As a reminder, MassArt offers many support services to our community members through the [Counseling and Wellness Center](#) and [MySSP](#) app for students; the [Mass4You Employee Assistance Program](#) for faculty and staff; and the [Office of Justice, Equity, and Transformation \(JET\)](#) for the entire community.**

As we continue to understand the full impact of this decision, I encourage you, if you haven't had a chance to do so yet, to visit MAAM's timely [Designing Motherhood exhibition](#), which demonstrates the evolution of rights and societal norms pertaining to reproduction through the lens of art and design.

I am grateful to be a part of this community and thankful for all that you do to make a difference,



Mary K. Grant, PhD  
President, Massachusetts College of Art and Design