WOMEN'S COALITION OF ST. CROIX

On June 24th, the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe vs. Wade ended our constitutional right to abortion, which has been in effect for nearly 50 years.

We are heartbroken and outraged at the Supreme Court decision. We are concerned about the impact it will have on women and girls, and those who are victims and survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence around the country. They may be forced to deal with the additional trauma of carrying to term unwanted pregnancies resulting from domestic and sexual violence, in states that make abortion illegal.

We feel access to abortion is a public health and human rights issue. We should have the freedom to choose and exercise our rights over our bodies and health. The impact of the Supreme Court's ruling on Roe vs. Wade is already being felt through statewide bans and restrictions on abortions. This has caused more harm and grief for victims/survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, people living in poverty, people with disabilities, People of Color, people who experience discrimination based on their sexual orientation or gender identity, and those who are already facing barriers to accessing healthcare. The abortion bans are part of the systemic racism and oppression that denies Black people, Indigenous people and People of Color access to affordable healthcare and other human rights. Reproductive justice, gender equity and racial equality can only be achieved when all people have the social, political and economic power to make decisions about their own health, bodies and sexuality.

I would like to end with the reminder that abortion is still legal in the Virgin Islands, and in many areas of the United States. I would like to commend Governor Bryan and Senate President Frett-Gregory for their statements on the Supreme Court ruling on Roe vs. Wade. A woman's right to choose will remain safe and legal in the VI. We stand in solidarity with our loved ones on the mainland.