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PRESS RELEASE

Attorney General Frosh Joins Coalition Pushing Back Against Mississippi's Attack on *Roe v. Wade*

BALTIMORE, MD (September 20, 2021) – Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh today joined a coalition of 24 state attorneys general in urging the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold its precedents protecting a woman's right to decide before viability whether to carry a pregnancy to term. In an [amicus brief](#) filed with the Court, the coalition argues that Mississippi's pre-viability abortion ban is unconstitutional and should remain unconstitutional.

In 1973, the Supreme Court ruled in *Roe v. Wade* that the Constitution does not permit states to prohibit a woman from deciding before viability whether to carry her pregnancy to term. That ruling was reaffirmed in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* in 1992 and by numerous cases in the following decades. In today's brief, the coalition argues that Mississippi's ban is unconstitutional under settled law, and that the Court should continue to uphold this well-established precedent.

"We will continue to fight to protect the constitutional right of women to make their own health care decisions," said Attorney General Frosh. "Mississippi's abortion ban is clearly prohibited by *Roe v. Wade* and nearly a half century of jurisprudence. This law simply hurts women."

In March 2018, the governor of Mississippi signed into law what was then the strictest abortion ban in the nation. The law prohibits abortion at 15 weeks, with few exceptions, even in cases of rape or incest. A federal district court judge struck down the law stating that Mississippi "chose to pass a law it knew was unconstitutional...to ask the Supreme Court to overturn *Roe v. Wade*." The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit affirmed the district court's ruling.

Mississippi's attempt to undo decades of Supreme Court precedent comes amidst years of attempts by other states to strip women of their right make their own healthcare decisions. This year alone, ten states have enacted bans on pre-viability abortions. In total, 16 states have now enacted pre-viability abortion bans.

In filing the brief, Attorney General Frosh joined the attorneys general of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

<https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2021/092021.pdf>