



THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
IMMUNOLOGISTS

**AAI Statement on the U.S. Supreme Court Decision in  
*Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization***

**December 16, 2022**

The American Association of Immunologists (AAI) is deeply concerned about the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. This decision, which overturns *Roe v. Wade*, eliminates the federal right to abortion that pregnant individuals have exercised and relied on for nearly fifty years. As the nation's largest professional association of research scientists and physicians who study the immune system and immune-related diseases, and who work to develop needed treatments and cures, we deplore the dramatic and deleterious impact this decision is having on pregnant individuals seeking reproductive care and on patients seeking legal medicines to treat their diseases. In many states, laws are being passed that prohibit surgical or medication abortions, even if it would be in the best medical interest of the pregnant person. In these and other states, doctors and pharmacists face an unacceptable choice between prescribing/dispensing certain critically needed FDA-approved medications to patients, including those with autoimmune conditions or other inflammatory-related illnesses, that may cause miscarriages or birth defects, or withholding these medications and endangering the life or health of the patient. Similarly, pregnant people who have cancer and need to receive life-saving chemo- or immuno-therapies now must decide whether to leave their disease untreated or expose their fetus to potentially toxic drugs. These and other restrictive new laws will inevitably result in unsafe abortions that can lead to life-threatening complications. In addition to causing great physical and psychological harm to patients, these laws threaten irreparable damage to the private and trusted relationship between medical professionals and their patients, who rely on receiving unbiased, evidence-based healthcare recommendations. We recognize this will further amplify disparities in quality care by having greater impact on those in vulnerable communities or with limited resources.

AAI is also very concerned about the *Dobbs* decision's impact on the careers of young scientists. Whether and when to start or grow a family is a private decision, one that will have enormous, lifelong consequences on personal lives and careers. The *Dobbs* decision will undoubtedly negatively affect the biomedical research community and slow scientific discoveries as scientists and medical professionals reconsider their pursuit of careers in states with restrictions on reproductive rights. Ensuring privacy in and full access to reproductive and other health care services is essential to health and well-being, and to advancing equity and equal opportunity.