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Vermont Health Care Organizations Support Reproductive Access in Light of Draft Supreme Court Opinion

MONTPELIER – May 3, 2022 – A diverse coalition of Vermont health care organizations denounces the draft Supreme Court opinion which indicates it may overturn both *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. We strongly support the preservation of access to abortion services in the United States.

Every person should have the right to control their own health care decisions, including the right to abortion care. As health care organizations, we strongly believe that abortion services should be treated like any other health care service. The consequences of overturning *Roe v. Wade* would block millions of people from the health care they need, especially those who have less ability to take time from work or pay the expenses to travel.

We are proud of Vermont's achievement in 2019 putting into law protection for Vermonters' access to safe, legal abortion, and want Vermonters to know that they still will have access to abortion services here in Vermont. But we know there is more work to be done. With more and more states blocking individuals' rights to health care and in light of the draft Supreme Court opinion, we urge Vermonters to vote in November to support Proposition 5, which will amend the Constitution of the State of Vermont to ensure that every Vermonter's right to personal reproductive liberty is protected into the future.

American Academy of Pediatrics – Vermont Chapter
Vermont Academy of Family Physicians
Stephanie Winters, Executive Director

Bi-State Primary Care Association
Mary Kate Mohlman, Director of Vermont Public Policy

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont
Sara Teachout, Corporate Director, Government and Media Relations

Office of the Health Care Advocate, Vermont Legal Aid
Michael Fisher, Chief Health Care Advocate

OneCare Vermont
Victoria Loner, Chief Executive Officer

Planned Parenthood Vermont Action Fund
Lucy Leriche, VP Vermont Public Affairs

University of Vermont Health Network
Jason W. Williams, Network Director, Government and Community Relations

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Jessa Barnard, Executive Director

Vermont Nurse Practitioners Association
Michelle Wade, MSN/Ed, APRN, President

Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care
Catherine Fulton, Executive Director