

Reproaction

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P.O. Box 7435
Arlington, VA 22207

July 2018

The Honorable Charles Schumer
780 Third Ave, Suite 2301
New York, NY 10017

Dear Senate Minority Leader Schumer,

As an abortion access and reproductive justice group with more than 34,000 supporters, nearly 2,000 of whom live in New York, we are writing to express our extreme concern with the current Supreme Court vacancy. We urge you to use your leadership to block any nominee who would overturn *Roe v. Wade* – regardless of whether they openly say they would. President Trump made a clear promise during the course of his campaign to only appoint justices who would overturn *Roe*, and as such anyone from his list of nominees released during his campaign, including Judge Kavanaugh, is unacceptable.

While some political actors are calling *Roe* “settled law” and suggesting the Supreme Court wouldn’t rule against precedent, you correctly noted in *The New York Times*, “Settled law is only settled until a majority of the Supreme Court decides it is not.”

In another recent piece, “What Happens When Abortion Is Banned?” our colleague Michelle Oberman detailed the consequences of illegal abortion in other countries. “When abortion is a crime,” she wrote, “The emergency room can become the scene of a criminal investigation, and doctors the detectives.” The message is simple: when women cannot receive compassionate care for pregnancy outcomes legally, the state declares them criminals for seeking basic medical services.

We are painfully aware that several of your colleagues are willing to abandon abortion rights, with a false theory that do so is politically expedient. We demand that you and your colleagues handle the Supreme Court nomination crisis with the seriousness it deserves. Our rights are not up for debate. We expect boldness, creativity, and fierce action from the people we’ve elected to very literally fight for our lives.

Sincerely,

Erin Matson and Pamela Merritt

Co-Founders and Co-Directors, Reproaction