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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Monday, September 20, 2021  
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## **Columbus Leads Coalition of Cities and Counties Standing Against Mississippi's Law to Ban Abortion After 15 Weeks of Pregnancy, a Direct Challenge to Roe v Wade**

*Local Governments File Amicus Brief in Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization Supporting the Center for Reproductive Rights*

**COLUMBUS, OH**—Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced that today the City of Columbus filed an amicus brief, joined by 28 other local governments nationwide, in support of the Center for Reproductive Rights' response challenging Mississippi's state law which seeks to ban abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy. Mississippi's law is a direct challenge to abortion rights in the United States Supreme Court.

Leading the brief, the City of Columbus was joined by the following local governments from across the country: City of Chicago, Illinois, City of Cincinnati, Ohio, City of Dayton, Ohio, City of Gary, Indiana, City of Houston, Texas, King County, Washington, City of Los Angeles, California, County of Los Angeles, California, City of Madison, Wisconsin, County of Marin, California, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, Multnomah County, Oregon, City of New York, New York, City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, City of Oakland, California, City of Portland, Oregon, City of Saint Paul, Minnesota, City and County of San Francisco, California, County of San Mateo, California, County of Santa Clara, California, City of Santa Monica, California, City of Seattle, Washington, Travis County, Texas, and the City of West Hollywood, California.

In the brief, the Amici argue that eradicating racial and economic health disparities is a core priority for local governments, which are responsible for public health information and providing direct, essential health care services in their communities. Health disparities are particularly pronounced in reproductive health, and the Mississippi Ban would exacerbate them further. Our nation's experience prior to Roe v. Wade, as well as evidence from the impact of other abortion restrictions, makes it abundantly clear that women with means would continue to have access to abortion while other women (typically women of color and lower-income women) would lose that access, thus disproportionately experiencing negative health outcomes and economic vulnerabilities.

**“The Mississippi Ban would only exacerbate the racial and economic health disparities that local governments are working to eradicate,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. “This law blatantly violates the constitutional protections set in Roe v Wade, which remain crucially important to women’s health and economic well-being. History has shown the dangerous and even deadly risk to women and families when access to these services is taken away.”**

The Mississippi Ban would disproportionately cause women of color and low-income women to lose access to abortions because they, as a group, have abortions later than White and higher-income women. And a decision to uphold the ban would create legal chaos not only in Mississippi, but nationwide, as it could trigger similarly restrictive, if not more restrictive, abortion bans in many other states.

The Supreme Court will hear arguments on Dobbs v Jackson Women’s Health Organization on December 1, 2021. [The brief is attached.](#)

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