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A statement from the Catholic bishops of Iowa regarding the Dobbs decision
May 23, 2022

Guided by science and faith, Catholics are praying fervently that the U.S. Supreme Court will overturn the claim to a constitutional right to abortion in its ruling on *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. A draft opinion leaked from the Court would seem to indicate majority support for a reversal of *Roe v. Wade*. This would have the effect of allowing many states to determine their own abortion policy.

But not Iowa. In 2018, a Supreme Court decision created a fundamental right to abortion in Iowa. That's why we advocate for the "Protect Life Amendment," so Iowans can once again debate abortion and perhaps even pass laws protecting preborn children.

In the meantime, as we affirm the dignity and value of every human life, we welcome the possibility of saving countless unborn children as well as sparing women and families the pain of abortion.

We exhort our nation to prioritize the well-being of women, children, and families so that no woman ever feels forced to choose between her future and the life of her child.

Through its charity agencies, and the independent efforts of its members, the Catholic Church is supporting all women in addition to the child in the womb. We accompany women and couples who are facing unexpected or difficult pregnancies, and during the early years of parenthood, through initiatives such as Walking with Moms in Need.

The Church provides abortion healing ministries, most often called Project Rachel Ministry, so that women and men receive forgiveness, healing, and spiritual renewal through Christ's infinite mercy.

We also encourage those of good will to contact their legislators in support of the "Iowa MOMS" bill, which will ensure that every pregnant woman in Iowa has better access to quality prenatal and postpartum care.

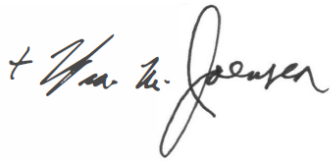
In all these ways and more, the Catholic Church witnesses to the sanctity of all human life, from conception to natural death, and works to build a true culture of life in our nation. No matter how the Dobbs case turns out, we have a responsibility and opportunity to take action to support the dignity of the human person and the common good.

Please help in these efforts and pray for a favorable ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court, which will lift up the sacredness and dignity of all human life.

Most Rev. Michael Jackels
Archbishop of Dubuque

Most Rev. Thomas Zinkula
Bishop of Davenport

Most Rev. R. Walker Nickless
Bishop of Sioux City



Most Rev. William Joensen
Bishop of Des Moines