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For more information:  
Olivia Gans Turner 202.360.5450  
Margaret H. Disney 804.560.8745

**VSHL Statement on the Overturning of *Roe v. Wade***

*The following may be attributed to Olivia Gans Turner, President of the Virginia Society for Human Life:*

Virginians should be elated that the Supreme Court has overturned the dreadful *Roe v. Wade* decision and opened the door for the states to pass reasonable, protective laws for mothers and their unborn children at all stages of pregnancy. However, at this time, the Commonwealth of Virginia currently provides more protection to the abortion industry than pregnant women and their babies.

Today in Virginia, we do not have enough pro-life legislators to enact protective legislation. Virginians will work hard to elect lawmakers who care about unborn children and their mothers and then reinstate the rational laws that were supported by the majority of Americans and Virginians, but were reversed by the Virginia General Assembly in 2020. Those commonsense laws, the Women's Right to Know and ultrasound laws, respect the rights of mothers to have full information about the irreversible decision they are about to make.

Although pro-abortion groups have claimed women will be arrested, every major pro-life organization in the United States has signed a statement rejecting any future laws that would impose criminal penalties on women who have abortions. The goals of the pro-life movement are dedicated to continuing to provide practical and total care to pregnant women in complex situations. There are over 40 pregnancy resource centers throughout Virginia offering free help, including housing, medical care, legal support, family counseling, educational opportunities, and childcare help. Women deserve better answers than the deaths of their children, and compassionate Virginians are providing that help. We must continue to add services that address the deeper reasons why women often feel like abortion is their only option.

Virginia should not continue to be the best place for unscrupulous abortionists to practice their dangerous trade moving forward. Unrestricted abortion means women's well-being is in jeopardy. In addition to reinstating laws the General Assembly removed, VSHL will work for the passage of laws.

Virginians want, like the Abortion Survivors Protection Act and the Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. These are the kind of compassionate, rational laws that the majority of Americans support. It is our hope that we can see these laws passed soon.

*Virginia Society for Human Life is the oldest state-wide pro-life organization in the nation with chapters throughout the Commonwealth supporting life issues and the Virginia affiliate of the National Right to Life Committee.*

**6767 Forest Hill Ave., Suite 304 \* Richmond, VA 23225**  
**Tel: 804.560.8745 \*\* [www.vshl.org](http://www.vshl.org) \*\* [info@vshl.org](mailto:info@vshl.org)**