Draft Minute on Conscience, Freedom, Obligation and Abortion

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The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) have since their founding recognized the Light in every person. Friends respect individual’s discernment in reading and interpreting scripture, and in seeking guidance on how to conduct their lives, as members of a faith community, and of a wider community, and under government.

Friends reject hierarchies of assumed authority – the man is the head of the family, the king is the head of the state.

Friends have a history of women’s equality dating back to the Founding of the Religious Society of Friends. Marriage was a matter of equals choosing one another. Friends did not rely on the state to “sanctify” marriage – as if an authority claimed by a state church could do so – but joined together in witness of the exchange of vows. Friends in community offered clearness committees for couples, to help ascertain whether parties were free to marry, and to help discern whether the couple was prepared for life and children. If assistance was needed, Friends would assist (including supporting children left bereft.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting Friends draw on our shared beliefs and practice in rejecting the reasoning that would enable federal and state judges and legislatures to ban abortion and force people to carry to term unplanned children. We support rights of conscience, freedom of religion, and separation of church and state. We support the bodily integrity of all people, with freedom from force and coercion from assault on their persons. We believe fundamental human rights apply – or should apply, where they do not – to all people: They are not subject to a single person, or by vote of the majority.

We believe an equitable society does not impose the greatest burdens on those least able to bear them. An equitable society cares for, educates, and provides for the futures of ALL children. We trust that individual adults are best-equipped to manage reproduction – including sexual education, contraception, and abortion.

Abortion remains socially and medical necessary.

[Include this last sentence? Requires more support.]

**Add citations and sources?**

Read Justice Alito's initial draft abortion opinion which would overturn Roe v. Wade

<https://www.politico.com/news/2022/05/02/read-justice-alito-initial-abortion-opinion-overturn-roe-v-wade-pdf-00029504>

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES No. 19-1502 THOMAS E. DOBBS, STATE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, ET AL, PETITIONERS v. JACKSON WOMEN'S HEALTH ORGANIZATION, FT AL. ONWRITOFCERTIORARITOTHE UNITEDSTATES COURTOF APPEALSFORTHE FIFTH CIRCUIT obruary\_ 2022)

<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/21835435-scotus-initial-draft>

The Supreme Court’s draft opinion on overturning Roe v. Wade, annotated

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/interactive/2022/dobbs-alito-draft-annotated/>

Reproductive Laws, Women of Color, and Low-Income Women LAURIE NSIAH-JEFFERSON

<https://www.law.berkeley.edu/php-programs/centers/crrj/zotero/loadfile.php?entity_key=JVPDI68R>

Disparities in Abortion Rates: A Public Health Approach

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3780732/>

Some gender disparities widened in the U.S. workforce during the pandemic

https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2022/01/14/some-gender-disparities-widened-in-the-u-s-workforce-during-the-pandemic/

How Early Is Too Early for Children to Reach Puberty? Learn about why puberty might happen earlier, the causes of precocious puberty, and the outlook for children who begin puberty early.

<https://www.healthline.com/health/how-early-is-too-early-for-children-to-reach-puberty?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_cmpid=16186720951&utm_adgid=131992823934&utm_adid=581730309498&utm_network=g&utm_device=c&utm_keyword=&utm_adpos=&utm_gclid=Cj0KCQjwmuiTBhDoARIsAPiv6L_Dz6O1TJMJFf9Q1TfNj1hLnuCKiwAY6LsMPp1yBAadpXgLlCmZoyEaAjMxEALw_wcB&gclid=Cj0KCQjwmuiTBhDoARIsAPiv6L_Dz6O1TJMJFf9Q1TfNj1hLnuCKiwAY6LsMPp1yBAadpXgLlCmZoyEaAjMxEALw_wcB>

Can you get pregnant at any age? Amy @ Planned Parenthood | Sept. 1, 2010, 3:43 p.m.

https://www.plannedparenthood.org/learn/ask-experts/can-you-get-pregnant-at-any-age

Op-Ed: A retro reading of the Constitution imperils many rights beyond abortion KENJI YOSHINO

MAY 6, 2022

https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2022-05-06/abortion-roe-supreme-court-draft-decision-unenumerated-rights

Yellen: Overturning Roe v. Wade would ‘have very damaging effects on the economy’ and ‘set women back decades’ ALICIA ADAMCZYK May 10, 2022

https://fortune.com/2022/05/10/yellen-overturning-roe-v-wade-would-set-women-back-decades/

Homicide is a top cause of maternal death in the United States. 12 November 2021

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-03392-8#:~:text=The%20researchers%20found%20that%20US,classified%20as%20pregnancy%2Drelated%20deaths>

Prosecutor to drop charges against Texas woman over her abortion. Daniel Trotta

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/prosecutor-drop-charges-against-texas-woman-over-her-abortion-2022-04-10/>

Uprooting Rights. Annette Gordon-Reed

<https://www.nybooks.com/daily/2022/05/09/uprooting-rights-roe/>

Deceit in Plain Sight. Liza Batkin

<https://www.nybooks.com/daily/2022/05/05/deceit-in-plain-sight/>

Indian Babies: How to Keep Them Well. United States. Office of Indian Affairs [1916? Reprint 2018]

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1376812886/ref=ox\_sc\_act\_title\_1?smid=ATVPDKIKX0DER&psc=1](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1376812886/ref%3Dox_sc_act_title_1?smid=ATVPDKIKX0DER&psc=1)

"The unborn" are a convenient group of people to advocate for. Dave Barnhart. June 25, 2018.

<https://www.facebook.com/dave.barnhart/posts/10156549406811031>

7 persistent claims about abortion, fact-checked. May 6, 2022

<https://www.npr.org/2022/05/06/1096676197/7-persistent-claims-about-abortion-fact-checked>

Ireland abortion policy under scrutiny after woman's death

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2012/nov/14/ireland-abortion-scrutiny-death>

What Actually Happens When a Country Bans Abortion

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/05/16/what-actually-happens-when-a-country-bans-abortion-romania-alabama/>

Children in foster care in the United States

https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/6243-children-in-foster-care?loc=1&loct=2&gclid=Cj0KCQjwmuiTBhDoARIsAPiv6L8CbRkoeXOfBIQY7QlyjyflrRcXqYZiRltiHa\_qXtyVILZ0wET5UZ0aAi-7EALw\_wcB#detailed/2/2-53/false/37,871,870,573,869,36,868,867,133,38/any/12987

2021 KIDS COUNT DATA BOOK: 2021 STATE TRENDS IN CHILD WELL-BEING

https://www.aecf.org/resources/2021-kids-count-data-book?gclid=Cj0KCQjwmuiTBhDoARIsAPiv6L8uK0vaodkm6FSQcOS2jIF9kwaY9OGbUPcRqqa\_4eQK1REP9qvt0wcaAh9tEALw\_wcB

Lastly – my own draft. Comments welcome, on Medium or direct to me. SKStout@gmail.com

S.K. Stout, *A 20th Century Feminist’s DRAFT Bill of Rights for 21st Century Women.* Medium. Com, Dec 7, 2021.