

## U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell

### Roe v. Wade Anniversary Press Conference

January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023

[\[AUDIO\]](#) [\[VIDEO\]](#)

**CANTWELL:** Thank you, Senator Wyden. In November Republicans, Democrats, and Independents, made it clear it was not okay to override the rights of women in the United States of America. They made that clear.

And now it is time for our Republican colleagues in the United States Senate to join us and pass a federal law that protects a woman's right to choose in every state in the United States of America.

We're not going to just have the House of Representatives continue to demean the health care services of women in America.

Even though I come from a state that has long protected Roe v. Wade in our state statute, the Supreme Court ruling has affected our state's health care delivery system. It has affected patients and doctors even in our state.

For example, after Roe v. Wade fell, [Pullman] Planned Parenthood in Eastern Washington [reported](#) the number of patients from Idaho jumping up to 78%.

This is now an ongoing crisis for our state's reproductive health care system. People in Idaho are not going to stop getting pregnant and they are not going to stop seeking the best medical care, they are going to cross our borders.

Not only are women coming from Idaho, they're coming from Texas, they're coming from Florida, where governments have decided they will take away the control of a woman's body.

This is likely to mean fewer available reproductive health care appointments, longer wait times, and especially the trying incidents of people trying to continue to strip those rights away and put pressure on medical professionals to not deliver this care.

Some states are now imposing penalties or jail sentences on doctors who perform abortions. Our medical providers wonder if their own health insurance will be subject to challenges because of the cost of continuing to provide this care. They should not be penalized just for providing this help.

We need safe abortions. We need women to make sure that in every part of the United States, they can get access to the health care they deserve.

We are continuing to hear from constituents all over our state about the delays in access to care, the challenges that they are facing, and the scrutiny that even they get, when they are trying to make sure that access is there and available.

The United States Senate needs to act. We are not going to play defense. We are going to play offense.

We are here to stand with these organizations to say to our Republican colleagues, it's time that they stand up and help protect a woman's right to choose.

This is a constitutional right to privacy that previous courts clearly outlined and was settled law for 50 years. The only unsettling thing here is that Republicans think they can get away with it.

I'm now going to introduce my colleague from Hawaii. Actually I'm going to introduce my colleague from Nevada, a champion on this issue, our great great advocate Senator Cortez Masto.