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HEALTH EQUITY STATEMENT REGARDING ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES AND CONTRACEPTIVE CARE

By Sarah Ravenhall, NYSACHO Executive Director

“The Supreme Court’s overturning of *Roe v. Wade* undoubtedly will impact the equity and accessibility of reproductive and family planning services, including abortions, for all women nationwide. We applaud Governor Hochul and the New York State Legislature for taking proactive steps to protect New Yorkers from the implications of this decision.

Communities already disadvantaged will experience even more severe negative health and social outcomes due to this decision. Therefore, it is critical that the effects of this ruling are monitored, including the collection of data concerning the mental, physical, and financial impacts on New York’s communities.

Findings from [the Turnaway Study](#), led by scientists from the University of California San Francisco, indicate that those who have been denied a wanted abortion are: more likely to remain with abusive partners and suffer anxiety; less likely to have aspirational life plans for the coming year; at greater risk of experiencing poor physical health for years after pregnancy; more likely to experience consequences associated with children born of unwanted pregnancies.

Further, surveillance data from [the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) indicate abortion restrictions will disproportionately affect people of color and those living with low incomes. Our members support evidence-based strategies that allow for health equitable access to care for all New Yorkers. Equally, NYSACHO supports access to comprehensive reproductive care and contraceptive methods as an integral component of women’s health care and is committed to encouraging and upholding policies and actions that ensure the availability of affordable and accessible contraceptive care and contraceptive methods.

New York’s 58 local health departments provide core public health services and monitor trends in health outcomes throughout their jurisdictions. Health equity is an absolute priority for public health officials, and we are committed to ensuring accessible care as the repercussions of this decision unfold.”

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