



Montefiore

From the OFFICE OF THE DEAN



Dear Einstein Community:

Earlier today, the justices of the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) voted 5 to 4 to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, a deeply disturbing and discouraging outcome for those concerned with women's health and human rights, particularly those pregnant people living in states where draconian laws criminalize this most personal of decisions.

It is also intensely unnerving that every justice currently on the court claimed that he or she would treat *Roe v. Wade* as decided precedent when questioned under oath by the Senate judiciary committee that approved their nomination.

This followed another ruling yesterday, which overturned a century-old New York State law requiring residents to demonstrate "proper cause" to carry a concealed gun in public. Most dismaying is that their decision turns a blind eye to the recent rash of mass shootings and the public health crisis that gun violence represents in the United States.

We are witnessing a court that seems determined to roll back laws protecting privacy and civil rights, without regard for precedent or current events. Instead, the justices voting in the majority on these cases seem tone-deaf to the concerns and desires of the American populace, who are overwhelmingly in support of a person's right to choose and to having sensible laws and regulations that protect both responsible gun owners and all Americans.

In recent weeks, I've mentioned a discussion on gun violence that is being planned for early in the new academic year. I also encourage you to view the [Statement on *Roe v. Wade*](#) posted by Dr. Sharmila Makhija, professor and chair of obstetrics & gynecology and women's health, on the department website; [this](#)

[statement from the AAMC](#); and [this message from Dr. Mitchell Katz, president and CEO of NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation](#), affirming the commitment to safe and legal abortion and the protection of our patients and professionals who provide these services.

In coming weeks, our leadership team will discuss ways in which we can support those in our immediate community and beyond, in keeping them safe, in protecting their health, and in raising our voices against these injustices. I welcome input from anyone who has thoughts or concerns about how these decisions may affect them or those close to them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Tomaselli', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gordon F. Tomaselli, M.D.

The Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean

Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer

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Editor's Note: While the Supreme Court voted 6-3 to reverse the lower court rulings on *Dobbs v. Jackson*, the Court voted 5-4 to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood vs. Casey*.