



AAB College of Reproductive Biology's (CRB's) Statement on Supreme Court Ruling Overturning Roe v. Wade

June 24, 2022

As clinical reproductive laboratory professionals who are acutely aware of the importance of unrestricted reproductive care, we are concerned by today's Supreme Court decision in the Mississippi abortion case (Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization) that overturns Roe v. Wade.

Additionally, we are closely monitoring trigger legislation in a number of states that may potentially endanger access to infertility care and hinder the way Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) is practiced. We are especially concerned about efforts by some lawmakers, both at state and federal levels, to introduce legislation that would define human life as commencing at fertilization. Such measures are collectively known as "Personhood legislation."

Because personhood legislation seeks to define embryos as persons at the earliest stages of fertilization and development, passage of these bills will severely cripple the practice of ART and clinical care of the infertile couple. Examples of important processes that will be significantly impacted by defining human embryos as persons include creation of the supernumerary embryos, disposition of the abnormal/non-viable embryos, non-survival of the embryos during laboratory procedures, laboratory accidents, and others.

AAB's College of Reproductive Biology (CRB) strongly rejects the premise of personhood at the time of fertilization, or at any time the embryo is handled in the laboratory in order to achieve pregnancy. It is our belief that this type of legislation will negatively affect some infertility patients who wish to use ART to produce a pregnancy, thereby resulting in fewer babies being born.

The CRB opposes all legislative efforts, whether intentional or inadvertent, to limit patients' access to the best ART practices and strongly supports efforts to educate the public and state and federal legislators about legislative initiatives that threaten infertility care.