PRAY FOR **DOBBS**

Case Name: *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*
U.S. Supreme Court Docket Number: 19-1392
U.S. Supreme Court Oral Arguments Date: December 1, 2021
Significance: Whether all pre-viability prohibitions on elective abortions are unconstitutional.
Hashtag: #PrayforDobbs #EmpowerWomenPromoteLife #LifeIsAHumanRight
Website: www.prayfordobbs.com

Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health

BACKGROUND:

Mississippi's Gestational Age Act protects the health and wellbeing of pregnant mothers, the life and dignity of unborn children, and the integrity of the medical profession by limiting abortions after 15 weeks gestational age except in medical emergencies or for severe fetal abnormality. By 15 weeks, a baby has a heartbeat, can move and kick, can sense movement outside the mother's womb, has eyes and eyelids that are beginning to open, can hiccup, and can hear her or his mother's heartbeat. The people of Mississippi understand that life is a human right and every life deserves to be protected. So, they chose to pass a law to protect unborn children and their mothers. Mississippi's law is consistent with what more than 90% of countries worldwide already do. In fact, the United States is an extreme outlier in abortion law and policy, being one of only four countries, including China and North Korea, that allows the abortion of a child any time during a woman's pregnancy.

Shortly after Mississippi's law was enacted in 2018, the only abortion clinic in Mississippi challenged the law. On May 17, 2021, the Supreme Court granted review of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. The specific question the Court will answer is whether a state may enact limits on abortion before viability, *i.e.*, when the baby is capable of living outside her mother's womb. The Supreme Court will consider the correctness of its previous rulings in *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, which severely limit the ability of states to protect their interests in unborn life and maternal health. Notably, the State of Mississippi explains in its brief that neither the right to an abortion nor a viability line have any basis in constitutional text or history, and that the medical research into fetal development over the last half century establishes that states have a compelling interest in protecting unborn life at 15 weeks.

More than 80 friend-of-the-court briefs were filed with the Supreme Court in support of the Mississippi law—exceeding the amicus brief filings in an average case multiple times over and resulting in the most amicus briefs ever filed in support of a pro-life law.
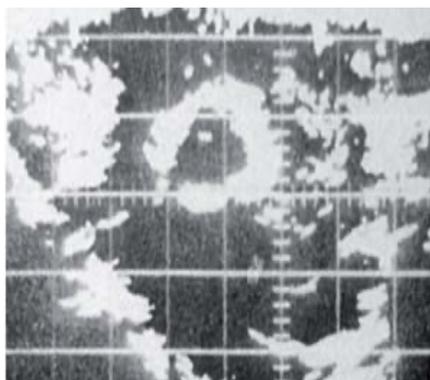
THE BOTTOM LINE:

The U.S. Supreme Court should affirm that life is a human right and uphold Mississippi's law.

Timeline of Mississippi's 15-Week Law Protecting Life and Women's Health

January-March 2018	Mississippi legislature introduces, debates, and passes 15-week law (HB 1510)
March 19, 2018	Mississippi Governor Bryant signs HB 1510; Mississippi's lone abortion clinic immediately sues to block enforcement
March 20, 2018	Federal district court in Mississippi temporarily blocks law
November 20, 2018	Federal district court rules that Mississippi law is unconstitutional
March 2019	Attorneys file amicus brief in Fifth Circuit on behalf of Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant in support of the 15-week law
December 13, 2019	Fifth Circuit upholds lower court ruling
June 15, 2020	Mississippi petitions Supreme Court to review case
May 17, 2021	Supreme Court grants review
December 1, 2021	Oral arguments to be heard
June 2022	Opinion expected

Fifteen-week ultrasounds around 1973 when *Roe* was decided and today:

Amici Curiae Brief for the American College of Pediatricians and the Association of American Physicians & Surgeons, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*.
Baby on first page: iStock.com/Mongkolchon Akesin. Model used for illustrative purposes only.