

Erika Oliphant
Monroe County Prosecuting Attorney
301 N College Ave #211,
Bloomington, IN 47404

Ms. Oliphant,

The poor and working people of Monroe County demand your office stand with the women, transgender men, and non-binary people targeted by reactionary attacks on their reproductive rights. As you know, on June 24th, 2022, the United States Supreme Court handed down their decision on *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, overturning almost 50 years of abortion rights protections that Americans have relied on since the *Roe v. Wade* decision. Many states have "trigger laws" already in their code that did not go into effect until the ruling was handed down, and many others are writing repressive laws with the goal of restricting reproductive care right now. Soon, Indiana will join their ranks. On July 25th, the Indiana General Assembly will begin a special session to consider, among other policies, restrictions on abortion. Given the far-right composition of the legislature, there is a serious chance that sweeping and punitive rollbacks on Hoosiers' right to abortion will become law this summer, making a simple medical procedure a crime to receive or administer. While we don't know exactly what the law will entail, we can look to laws passed around the country to know that Indiana legislators will attempt to pass a dangerous and degrading restriction on essential healthcare across the state.

In Marion County, Prosecuting Attorney Ryan Mears has preempted the legislature by signing the Fair and Just Prosecution Pledge to refrain from prosecuting patients or providers, regardless of what laws the legislature passes. He is joined by more than 80 other elected Prosecutors and District Attorneys, though he is the only signatory from Indiana. Your name is notably absent from the pledge, despite the broad popularity of the pro-choice position among your constituents. While this pledge does not go nearly far enough (it does not guarantee access to abortion, it simply prevents punishment for seeking or providing those procedures), it would still vastly improve the lives of Monroe County residents.

We've read your recent statement, and we understand that you personally hold pro-choice views like most of your constituents do. Unlike most of your constituents; however, you hold an elected position with the power to turn those views into policy, and it is a position we demand you make use of. We are all "deeply saddened and disappointed by the Supreme Court's decision," as you said. That's why you see us in the streets. That's why you've received this letter. That's why we demand your guarantee that you will not act as Monroe County's enforcer of whichever draconian anti-choice laws pass the General Assembly. You were elected by the working class of Monroe County, not by reactionary Assembly members in Indianapolis. The people of Monroe County have stood up, and we will not allow our rights to be stripped away by a gerrymandered General Assembly, no matter how "progressive" or "pro-choice" the enforcer of

such a law claims to be. We will not allow a document written well before women had the right to vote override the safety and freedom of ourselves, our friends, and our neighbors. This is not your choice, this is ours, and we will hold you accountable.