

## UCWAZ Statement in Support of Abortion Rights

In defense of the health and rights of students and laborers, United Campus Workers Arizona opposes the Supreme Court's dangerous decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. Undoing public trust and actively harming the people it claims to protect, the Court's reversal of the long-established and widely supported right to abortion is a direct assault on our reproductive health and bodily autonomy that will have devastating effects nationally and at Arizona's universities.



The right to safe, legal abortion is a crucial part of workers' reproductive health care and family planning. Restrictions on that right directly threaten workers' livelihoods by removing their ability to manage their personal health, education, and careers within an unjust, unequal, and uncertain economy. These restrictions will be especially disastrous for working-class people and people of color who are already disproportionately affected by poverty, precarity, infant mortality, and pregnancy-related mortality.

UCW Arizona calls on the leadership of the University of Arizona, Arizona State University, and Northern Arizona University to advocate for the health and reproductive rights of its students, staff, and faculty. That advocacy must include safeguarding their access to any affected benefits and ensuring flexible, compassionate classrooms and workplaces that can accommodate travel and other burdens that abortion seekers will now face. This requires an active commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion such that the free speech of abortion-rights advocates and the safety of abortion seekers are an immediate and lasting priority at the highest levels of administration.

Furthermore, UCW Arizona asserts that university leaders must use their influence and privilege to advocate for the necessary legislative and policy changes, at both the state and federal level, that the Supreme Court's decision has made imperative. It is the duty of universities to participate in the national conversation and amplify the voices of scholars who have made clear the grave impacts that abortion bans will have on law, ethics, labor conditions, gender equity, racial justice, and public health.

As state and federal governments continue to enact ruinous and inhumane dictates that are wholly unsupported by the working classes, the members of UCW Arizona will continue to *organize* to protect reproductive rights, women's rights, LGBTQIA+ rights, environmental rights and civil rights of university workers.