



An open letter to the people of Colorado:

The ruling by the Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade* is a devastating blow to reproductive justice in the United States. It is another step in a decades-long effort to erode the rights of women, people of color, queer people and low income communities. An effort to impose white male patriarchy and conservative religious doctrine on a country established on the precept that Church and State are, and should always remain, separate. This ruling is deeply damaging to many of the most vulnerable Americans and is antithetical to the values of equity, inclusion, and justice that Community Shares of Colorado and our member agencies hold dear.

Colorado has often been a state at the vanguard of abortion rights, being the first state to decriminalize abortion in cases of rape, incest, or physical threat to the health of the woman in 1967. Colorado set aside Medicaid funding in 1978 to provide abortion care to poor women who needed access. And Colorado has also been a battleground state, rejecting so-called personhood amendments to the state constitution in 2008 and legislative efforts to ban abortion in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018.

The work of Community Shares of Colorado's member Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains and their partners, Cobalt and COLOR, has been vital in making Colorado a safe haven for people in need of abortion care. With the passage of the Reproductive Health Equity Act, Colorado statute guarantees access to reproductive care – including abortion – and affirms the right of pregnant persons to decide whether to continue or terminate a pregnancy. Without the efforts of this network of passionate advocates, Colorado may well have joined the ranks of states enacting harsh bans on abortion care immediately upon the issuance of this Supreme Court decision.

Community Shares of Colorado and our members stand firm in our support of reproductive justice for the people of Colorado and our neighbors across the country. We honor the decades of work that our members have done to protect our rights, to assert and enact socially just policies and legislation, and to build a non-profit sector that centers equity and access.

With this letter, we the undersigned affirm to the people of Colorado that we will continue to fight for social justice in all its forms. That we will continue to build capacity for organizations advocating for the marginalized and lifting up those who have lived under systemic oppression. And we will continue to steward the resources of this community to ensure our vibrant, passionate civil society stays strong.

In solidarity and with love,

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