

Good morning and thank you for coming. We will get started. We're here this morning in response to the leaked draft Supreme Court opinion seeking to overturn Roe v. Wade.

Yesterday Chief Justice John Roberts confirmed the authenticity of the opinion. Which means that although it may change it is a real, draft opinion under consideration by members of the Supreme Court and a FINAL decision is expected to be released in the next several weeks.

This morning, I'm proud to stand with my colleagues House Speaker Jill Krowinski, Senate President Pro Temp Becca Balint and legislative leaders in a showing of unity for reproductive rights and to discuss what Vermonters can do in this moment.

I want to recognize that because of the vision of leaders here today who years ago began a process to amend our Vermont constitution to protect reproductive autonomy, that Vermont is poised to protect the right to choose, come what may with the Supreme Court.

I know Vermonters are scared, angry, confused and rightfully so. I've heard from countless Vermonters over the last 48 hours. Unfortunately, this the leaked draft opinion signals a potential tipping point around fundamental rights. I know Vermonters are asking and thinking what's next – LGBTQ rights, marriage equality, voting rights...

I want to assure Vermonters that we will continue to do all we can here in Vermont to using our legislative process, our Vermont constitution and the legal tools to protect fundamental rights. I want to share three things that Vermonters can do right now:

1. Talk to your neighbors, community, family and friends about Proposition 5.
2. Reach out to our Congressional Delegation, and tell them you support their leadership, especially Senators, as they navigate codifying Roe v. Wade in Federal Law.
3. Support organizations here in Vermont and nationally providing access to reproductive care.

I'm now pleased to hand things over to House Speaker Jill Krowinski and will be pleased to take any questions at the end.