



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MNADV DENOUNCES THE SUPREME COURT DECISION IN DOBBS V. JACKSON

LANHAM, MD – In the wake of the devastating Supreme Court decision in Dobbs that eviscerated the right to bodily autonomy and the right to have an abortion, the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) remains committed to fighting for reproductive freedom for all people. “Access to abortions can be a matter of life or death for survivors of domestic violence. Pregnant survivors are at a higher risk of being killed by their abuser,” stated Jennifer Pollitt Hill, Executive Director of MNADV.

Abortion is still legal in Maryland. It is anticipated that Maryland will be one of the states people will travel to seeking abortions. “MNADV is committed to working with community partners to support those traveling to Maryland for abortion access and to those in Maryland who provide reproductive healthcare,” said Pollitt Hill. “We will again support legislation that will enshrine the right to an abortion in Maryland’s constitution and will support any other legislative efforts to expand abortion access in Maryland and protect those coming to our state for the right to choose what happens to their body,” stated Melanie Shapiro, Public Policy Director of MNADV. It is crucial that Congress act to reinstate the fundamental right to an abortion that the Supreme Court stripped away after almost 50 years. We also urge Governor Hogan to release the \$3.5 million that is set aside in the budget to expand abortion care training.

“The stark reality is that the decision in Dobbs will disproportionately impact already marginalized survivors of domestic violence. It is insufficient to say that abortions must be safe and legal to have meaningful reproductive freedom for everyone. Abortions must also be affordable and accessible. Not all survivors of domestic violence or those in need of abortion access have the financial resources or freedom from their abuser to travel hundreds of miles to a state where abortion is legal,” stated Pollitt Hill. The Dobbs decision is particularly devastating for the survivor of reproductive coercion, whose abuser uses threats, intimidation, or physical violence to control their reproductive choices, whose abuser may be tracking their every move and so they cannot travel states away for an abortion. Reproductive justice is an essential component of gender equality and for survivors of domestic violence abortion access is essential for their safety.

In the days, weeks, months, and years ahead we will continue to fight for reproductive freedom for all people.