

The third provision of the American Nurses Association (ANA) code of ethics states that “The nurse promotes, advocates for, and protects the rights, health, and safety of the patient” (ANA, 2015). This principle brings to light the recent overturning of *Roe vs Wade* in 2022 and the effects it has on women in states with total abortion bans. *Roe vs Wade* is a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that protected a woman’s right to terminate or continue a pregnancy (Center for Reproductive Rights, 2024). With this ruling overturned, the access to safe abortions and the care of other obstetric complications is significantly more difficult to obtain because the surgical procedures and medications used for abortions are also used to treat other pregnancy complications such as placental abruption and ectopic pregnancy (Berg et.al, 2023). Due to this, many nurses may find it difficult to adhere to the third provision of the code of ethics and advocate for the safety and rights of their patients.

According to Judith A. Berg and Nancy Fugate Woods in their article *Overturning Roe V. Wade: consequences for midlife women’s health and well-being*, “maternal-child nurses have long supported policies to reduce maternal mortality, promote health equity, eradicate structural racism, protect the patient-provider relationship, and improve health care delivery for all. With the loss of *Roe v. Wade* many of these basic policies will be undermined (Berg et.al, 2023). Nurses in states with total abortion bans will not be able to follow policies designed to protect the safety and well-being of their patients and deliver high quality care for life-threatening pregnancy complications.

American Nurses Association. (2015). Code of ethics with interpretative statements. Silver Spring, MD: Author. Retrieved from <http://www.nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/EthicsStandards/CodeofEthicsforNurses/Code-ofEthics-For-Nurses.html>

Berg, J. A., & Woods, N. F. (2023). Overturning Roe v. Wade: consequences for midlife women's health and well-being. *Women's midlife health*, 9(1), 2. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40695-022-00085-8>

*Roe V. Wade*. [reproductiverights.org](https://reproductiverights.org). (n.d.). <https://reproductiverights.org/roe-v-wade/>