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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATEMENT OF JOSHUA ENGEL, MANAGING PARTNER OF ENGEL & MARTIN, LLC, ON SUPREME COURT DECISION IN *DOBBS V. JACKSON WOMEN'S HEALTH ORGANIZATION*

The decision of the Supreme Court over-ruling *Roe v. Wade* is an abandonment of the Court's central role in American democracy of protecting individual liberties and the historic role of courts to protecting citizens against the state on matters of conscience.

Abortion remains a highly divisive topic in our society. This is a highly personal matter with deep moral, religious and spiritual implications. People of good faith can disagree about this issue. Indeed, respectful disagreement is a core value of democracy. The Constitution protects the liberty of each woman to make this decision in consultation with family, clergy, and medical professional in accordance with her beliefs. The government may not mandate a single moral code and the Constitution, if it stands for anything, prevents a state from resolving these difficult questions in one way for everyone.

Our tradition recognizes that, as Justice O'Connor wrote thirty years ago, matters "involving the most intimate and personal choices a person may make in a lifetime, choices central to personal dignity and autonomy, are central to the liberty protected by the" Constitution. The prior decisions of the Supreme Court protected individual choices about who to marry

(*Loving*, *Obergefell*), how to raise and educate children (*Pierce*), and whether to use contraception (*Griswold*). These decisions, and many others, are ALL now at risk.

The greatest concern is not that states may act to ban all abortion, including in those circumstances in which the pregnancy is itself a danger to a woman's life or health, or is the result of rape or incest. That is bad enough. But this decision signals an openness by the Court to allow states to roll back other important freedoms, such as same sex marriage and the ability to use contraceptives. This abandonment by the Court of its traditional role in protecting the liberty of the individual is heartbreaking.

The Constitution is a living document that will certainly die if such radical departures from our traditions continue. But all is not yet lost. Those who value liberty must remain steadfast, strong in will, and unyielding.

About Engel & Martin, LLC: Engel & Martin, LLC is a boutique law practice offering a combined more than 100 years of legal experience located in Mason Ohio, north of Cincinnati. Engel & Martin, LLC is a recognized source for assertive legal representation in Ohio and nationwide. The attorneys of Engel & Martin, LLC have significant experience handling high profile and difficult criminal, civil rights cases and appellate in state and federal courts.

About Joshua Engel: A civil rights attorney for nearly 30 years, Joshua Engel currently provides representation to individuals in civil rights matters, appeals, and high-profile criminal litigation nationwide. Engel served as a prosecutor in Ohio and Massachusetts and as Chief Legal Counsel for the Ohio Department of Public Safety. Engel was head of the Appellate division for the Warren County Prosecutor's Office and has argued cases in the six federal appellate circuits. Engel earned a B.A. in Economics, *magna cum laude*, from the University of Pennsylvania and graduated *cum laude* from Harvard University Law School.

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