

# Daily Meditation 06-26-23

## Dobbs: One Year After

Good morning.

Today we are meditating on the implications and the consequences of the Dobbs decision a year ago, that outlawed abortion in many states. And the facts are not at all pleasant to hear. But this is reality, we have to face it.

One Tennessee physician that we cite, says, "Without abortion care, we're going to see maternal mortality go up." And that has happened and is happening. And experts tell us it will become worse, as more and more states are restricting access to abortion.

The inequities in health insurance, especially, have come to the fore. And the health insurance question includes birth control, which of course, would prevent the need for abortion as mothers and especially poor mothers, and single mothers recognize it.

Black women in southern states where restriction dominates, have the lowest health insurance coverage rates of all black women in America. So that is kind of setting these women up for failure, for crisis. And of course is endangering the family that they already have. Because when there's that amount of new stress, the children who are already present in the family get less attention, and less balanced attention.

Where Planned Parenthood clinics have been shut down, or reduced in number, the mortality rate has increased by 8%, when parenthood clinics decreased by 20%. And these are the facts from 18 states where Planned Parenthood clinics have been shut down by 20%.

Furthermore, black women are three times more likely to die, when these clinics have closed, than are white women or Latina women. So it cannot be denied that race is part of this situation.

Class is also part of the situation. 49% of people seeking abortion have a family income below the poverty line of \$19,000 a year. 49%. That's half, below the poverty line of under \$20,000 a

year. While women whose family income is \$40,000, twice that, they have only four in 1000 who have abortions.

So again, it is the poorest ones who are set up for abortion, because they do not have access to birth control very often, or to doctors whom they can trust.

So all this unveils how complex the abortion question is, how it includes race and class as well as gender.

Thank you. We'll see you tomorrow.