

MAY 8, 2022

# SCOTUS Draft Opinion on Abortion

This is The Weekly Letter for May 8, 2022. [About this newsletter](#)

## News

### U.S.

A *Politico* [article](#) on May 2 revealed a draft majority opinion written by Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito which overturns federal protection of abortion rights. The right to abortion has been protected since the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision.

The leak of the draft opinion is extraordinary. The *Politico* article notes, "No draft decision in the modern history of the court has been disclosed publicly while a case was still pending."

Joining Alito in a preliminary vote to overturn federal protection of abortion rights were Justices Amy Coney Barrett, Neil Gorsuch, Brett Kavanaugh, and Clarence Thomas, according to "A person familiar with the court's deliberations...."

In the draft, Alito writes, "The Constitution does not prohibit the citizens of each State from regulating or prohibiting abortion."

Should the Supreme Court overturn *Roe v. Wade*, "about half of states would be likely to ban abortion or limit it heavily," [according to](#) a May 3 *New York Times* piece.

The leaked opinion is only a draft, and the justices can change their positions before the Supreme Court issues its decision. For now, abortion rights remain federally protected.

### Environment

A *Grist* [article](#) reports on a heat wave in India and Pakistan and its connection to climate change:

"A record-shattering heat wave is devastating parts of India and Pakistan, putting more than a billion people at risk and unleashing a surge of related problems. For decades, experts have warned that climate change would make heat waves like this more frequent and more intense — a prediction now playing out in real time." (5/4)

In northern New Mexico, a [megafire](#) is raging, according to *The New York Times*. The blaze "threatens a multigenerational culture that has endured for centuries." (5/5)

### International

Al Jazeera reports on the [impact](#) of the war in Ukraine on Africa:

"Africa faces an 'unprecedented' crisis caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine that has led to soaring food and fuel prices, the United Nations said.

The conflict in Ukraine and Western sanctions on Moscow are disrupting supplies of wheat, fertiliser and other goods, compounding the difficulties Africa already faces from climate change and the coronavirus pandemic." (5/6)

## Opinion

*Reactions to the Supreme Court draft opinion on abortion*

**Adrienne LaFrance:** Overturning *Roe* would deprive women of the rights [America has promised](#). (The Atlantic, 5/7)

**Jason Willick:** The end of *Roe* would mean [greater democratization](#) in determining abortion policy. (Washington Post, 5/6)

**Roxane Gay:** "The [sky is falling](#), and a great many of us are desperately trying to hold it up." (NY Times, 5/3)

**Rebecca Solnit:** How to [fight back](#) for abortion rights. (The Guardian, 5/4)

Have some thoughts about a current event? Want to reply to an opinion article featured in the newsletter? To create a conversation about the news, all are encouraged to share their views. Send your letter along with your name and where you're writing from to [theweeklyletternewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:theweeklyletternewsletter@gmail.com) or reply to this email. Please be aware that the newsletter is published on the website [theweeklyletter.ghost.io](https://theweeklyletter.ghost.io) and sent by email to subscribers. Letters that are hateful or contain misinformation will not be published.



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Jamie Larson

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