FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SCOTUS Ruling Threatens the Privacy and Family Planning Rights of Oregon Educators

PORTLAND, OR – Today’s ruling by the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) overturning the longstanding precedent set by Roe v. Wade is a devastating blow to both the family planning and privacy rights of Oregon’s education workforce. The Oregon Education Association (OEA) is an affiliate of the National Education Association (NEA), which has been on record since 1978 in support of the right of its members to choose whether to have children and how to plan and have a family.

“Today’s decision overturns decades of precedent establishing privacy in matters relating to procreation, marriage, and how an individual or individuals choose to raise a family,” said OEA President Reed Scott-Schwalbach. “OEA believes that family planning and reproductive health decisions should be left to individuals, and that our members have a right to privacy in decisions they make about how and when they choose to create and raise a family.”

The privacy rights enshrined in Roe v. Wade have been used by NEA and its state affiliates to protect educators from unconscionable employer decisions impacting members under a wide range of circumstances over the years. This includes:

- Overturning a district’s decision to fire an educator for choosing to have a baby out of wedlock after becoming pregnant as a result of rape;
- Overturning the firing of an educator who was pushed out of her district for choosing to get a divorce;
- Protecting the right of an educator to breastfeed her baby during her duty-free lunch period after being denied that right by her district.

“The fundamental role of a union is to protect the inherent and contractual rights of our members. Today’s decision is an attack on those rights, and the Oregon Education Association will continue to fight against efforts to roll back rights that impact our students and members, including privacy rights and healthcare rights,” said Scott-Schwalbach.

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