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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **CLRJ CONDEMNS SUPREME COURT'S RECENT DECISIONS**

Washington DC (July 6, 2023) - This week marked the nation's 247th Independence Day celebration, less than one week after the Supreme Court handed down multiple attacks on human rights in the unprecedented decisions limiting the liberty and freedom of our communities. Reproductive oppression is front and center at the hands of the most conservative and politicized Supreme Court in a century as last month saw Black and Brown folks and low-income communities lose access to both student debt relief and affirmative action in higher education, LGBTQIA+ people lose access to the public domain without fear of court-authorized discrimination, and Native communities lose water rights enshrined in the nation's early treaties. These decisions come at a time when our communities are suffering from the aftermath of COVID-19, amidst hundreds of anti-trans and anti-LGBTQIA+ bills passing through state legislatures, and an ever growing climate crisis that puts Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities most at risk of water shortages.

We cannot look at our country today without understanding how the violent ideologies and institutions that have been created over the last 200+ years have shaped our lived experiences. These decisions disregard the history of the United States, a country that was undeniably founded on white supremacy - beginning with the oppression and genocide of Native peoples and the stealing of their lands, land which was then developed with the forced labor of enslaved Native and African people. It has been over sixty years since social movements led by people of color, women, and LGBTQIA+ people demanded change and made momentous strides towards equity and access in this country. Today's Supreme Court has rolled back decades of progress towards ending discrimination in an attempt to erase a hard-fought chapter in this country's sordid history.

The implications of the rulings will go far beyond the original cases presented to the Supreme Court. Every piece of anti-discrimination legislation in the country defending every "protected class" from harm - be it Black, Jewish, gay, trans, or pregnant people - is now up for attack. The court has given legal precedent to the theory that legislations and policies designed to stop discrimination against historically marginalized groups are invalid, in principle because they "discriminate" against white and straight people. Meanwhile, SCOTUS kept in place the policy of "legacy admissions" which considers a college student's family member having attended the institution in the past as a factor in admissions - a policy that favors wealthy white students who, due to benefiting from decades of systemic racial discrimination and privileges, are much more likely to qualify as a legacy applicant.

As a Reproductive Justice organization, we believe that our policies, support services, and systems should center the lived experiences of those most vulnerable in society.



Anti-discrimination law, public accommodation law, and affirmative action policies are not perfect, but we know that they work to dramatically increase access and equity for historically marginalized groups. Likewise, the student loan debt relief program would have supported up to 40 million borrowers who have suffered economic hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a pandemic that most negatively impacted people of color, and women of color in particular. Likewise, access to clean water is a human right and important to the sovereignty of indigenous people and their ability to create, raise their families, tend their land and survive as a nation.

The conservative Justices on the court have shrunk against their duty to preserve the rights of all people to equal protection, and made hugely detrimental, politicized, and dark-money funded decisions to strip us of our rights. True Reproductive Justice - the ability to access our full bodily autonomy and right to determine if and when to start a family and raise that family in a safe, healthy, and supportive environment is only possible when our communities have all the resources, protection from discrimination, and economic security to do so. No matter what the Supreme Court rules, we will always stand with our communities, provide care, protection, and access to human rights to the greatest possible extent.

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California Latinas for Reproductive Justice is a statewide organization committed to honoring the experiences of Latinas/xs to uphold our dignity, our bodies, sexuality and families. We build Latinas'/xs' power and cultivate leadership through community education, policy advocacy, and community informed research to achieve Reproductive Justice. Learn more about California Latinas for Reproductive Justice at [www.californialatinas.org](http://www.californialatinas.org).

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