One year ago, the United States Supreme Court — including five Justices who are or were raised Catholic — issued its decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization. Overturning nearly fifty years of precedent set in Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey, the Justices stripped women of their right to abortion and escalated an ongoing reproductive healthcare crisis in this country.

Today, as Catholic Democrats serving in the House of Representatives, we are proud that we are part of the faithful pro-choice Catholic majority — 68 percent of whom supported the legal protections for abortion access enshrined in Roe and 63 percent of whom think abortion should be legal in all or most cases. Our faith unfailingly promotes the common good, prioritizes the dignity of every human being, and highlights the need to provide a collective safety net to our most vulnerable.

We are committed to making real the basic principles at the heart of Catholic social teaching: helping the poor, disadvantaged, and the oppressed; protecting the least among us; and ensuring that all Americans of every faith are given meaningful opportunities to share in the blessings of this great country. We recognize that bans and restrictions on abortion disproportionately harm those who already endure poverty, discrimination, and racism. Our values demand that we dismantle economic insecurity, gender inequality, and systemic racism.

As Catholics, we believe all individuals are free to make their own personal decisions about their bodies, families, and futures. The role of informed conscience is at the very core of our faith. The Catechism of the Catholic Church plainly states that “A human being must always obey the certain judgment of his [or her] conscience. If he [or she] were deliberately to act against it, he [or she] would condemn himself [or herself].” We regard conscience as both a sacred gift and a responsibility: we are called to follow our conscience.

We believe the separation of church and state means allowing for our faith to inform our public duties and how we best serve our constituents — not that we impose our religious beliefs and customs on others who may not share them. As legislators, we are charged with being facilitators of the Constitution which guarantees religious freedom for all Americans. Catholic teaching honors religious pluralism, declaring that the right to practice one’s religious beliefs must be protected, as well as the right to be free from the religious beliefs of others. Our faith and our country’s Constitution demand that no person impose a single religious viewpoint into law or regulation.

Ultimately, as Catholic Democrats who embrace the vocation and mission of the laity as expressed by the late Pope John Paul II in his Apostolic Exhortation, Christifideles Laici, we believe that the Church is the "people of God," called to be a moral force in the broadest sense. We believe the Church as a community is called to be in the vanguard of creating a more just
America and world.

The fundamental tenets of our Catholic faith — social justice, conscience, and religious freedom — compel us to defend a woman’s right to access abortion. We are committed to advocating for the respect and protection of those making the decision if and when to have children.

Rosa L. DeLauro           Val Hoyle
Pete Aguilar               John B. Larson
Nanette Diaz Barragán     Susie Lee
Greg Casar                Stephen F. Lynch
Joaquin Castro            Betty McCollum
Gerald E. Connolly        James McGovern
Joe Courtney              Kevin Mullin
Madeleine Dean            Grace F. Napolitano
Mark DeSaulnier           Bill Pascrell
Debbie Dingell           Nancy Pelosi
Anna G. Eshoo              Andrea Salinas
Adriano Espaillat           Mike Thompson
Jesús “Chuy” García       Paul Tonko
Robert García              Lori Trahan
Sylvia R. Garcia        Nydia Velázquez
Jimmy Gomez