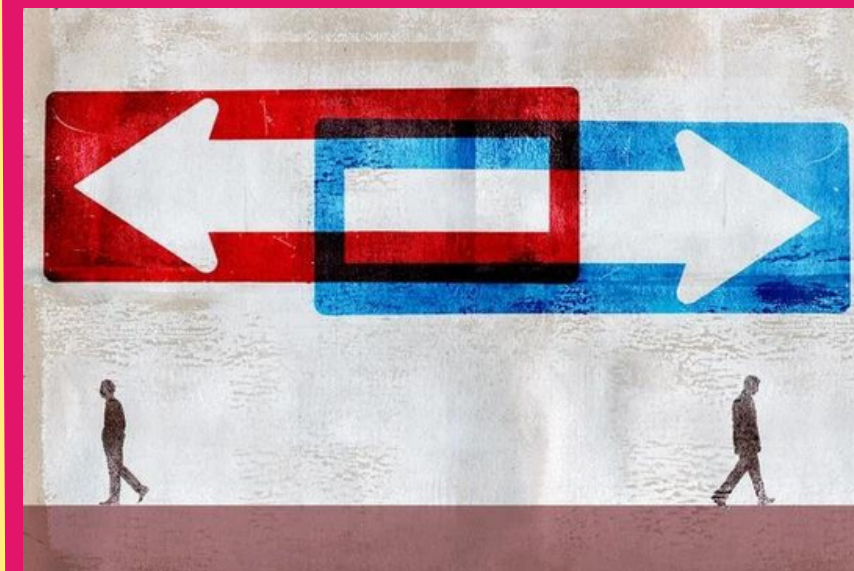# HOW DOBBS V. JACKSON WOMEN'S HEALTH ORGANIZATION

AFFECTS POLARIZATION, FEDERALISM, & SEPARATION OF POWERS

DOBBS IS RESULTING IN MORE POLARIZATION

- U.S. politics has gotten more and more polarized, and people are moving farther away from the line that separates Republicans from Democrats and conservatives from liberals
- Overturning *Roe* and *Casey* indicates more polarization in U.S. politics because Congress is so polarized to the point where they were unable to pass any laws relating to abortion, so the next step was to take the issue to the Supreme Court
- Also, the Supreme Court is not making a definitive decision for the whole country, each state can decide to keep abortions legal or not which results in more difference

DOBBS IS RESULTING IN STRONGER FEDERALISM

- Federalism is important because it ensures that the government wouldn't allow one group or party to dominate politics
- Federalismalso allows for each state to do different things since every state has different needs
- *Dobbs* strengthens federalism because it gives more power to the states, and it takes some weight off of the federal government
- The federal government couldn't decide on this issue, so they gave it to the states to handle individually since each state is so different

DOBBS IS RESULTING IN A WEAKER SEPARATION OF POWERS

WEAK

- Separation of powers is the idea that the federal government is separated into three branches, executive, legislative, and judicial, so that no one in the government can have too much power
- The issue of abortion went to each branch, and no one could make a decision, so the Supreme Court had to give it to the states to decide for themselves
- This gave each branch of the federal government less power and weakened separation of powers

Sources

Cole, D. (2022, May 25). New poll: 54% of Americans disapprove of Supreme Court following roe draft opinion leak | CNN politics. CNN. Retrieved April 30, 2023, from https://www.cnn.com/2022/05/25/politics/supreme-court-approval-rating-drop-roe-leak/index.html

Pierson, P. & Schickler, E. (2020). Madison's constitution under stress: A developmental analysis of political polarization. *Annual Review of Political Science, 23*, 37-58. https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-polisci-050718-033629