FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SNMA Response to the Supreme Court’s Overturning of Roe v. Wade
From the Desk of the Chairpersons of the Health Policy and Legislative Affairs Committee

Monday, June 27, 2022
Washington, DC

The Student National Medical Association (SNMA) believes that access to safe and professional abortion services are essential for reproductive health. We strongly oppose barriers to safe abortion care including but not limited to legislative, social, and administrative blockades. We disagree with the recent decision by the Supreme Court to overturn Roe v. Wade after almost 50 years of precedent. As the nation’s oldest and largest organization of underrepresented minority medical students, we recognize the urgent threat this ruling poses to our members and the communities we serve.

The overturning of Roe v. Wade will inevitably exacerbate existing racial disparities. Decreased abortion access disproportionately impacts Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) and people with low socioeconomic status.1 We remain consistent in our mission to address the needs of underserved communities and refuse to standby as marginalized groups are repeatedly limited in their ability to access safe, regulated health care.

Appealing to our legislators to codify Roe as the law of the land can help ensure that widespread abortion care is shielded from further attacks. Our call to action promotes the principles of reproductive justice for women of color and other marginalized groups, including protecting an individual’s ability to choose if, when, and how to have children.2 We boldly ask our members to take the following action steps:

- Register to vote
- Contact your Congress Members
- Join the Health Policy and Legislative Affairs Committee

Founded in 1964, the Student National Medical Association has been the voice of underrepresented students in medicine. Our mission is to support current and future underrepresented medical students by addressing the needs of underserved communities and increasing the number of clinically excellent, culturally competent, and socially conscious physicians. SNMA has a membership of more than 7,000 medical students, residents, and physicians, in ten regions, with over 100 SNMA chapters and nearly 200 premed student chapters (MAPS) across the United States and the Caribbean. www.snma.org

References: