

To the Rhodes Community:

As an update to my email of July 6 (below), and after consultation with the Faculty Governance Committee and others on campus, I have asked several members of our community to serve on a task force to help the college address critical issues and questions resulting from the Supreme Court's June 24 decision in the Dobbs case. I am grateful to the following individuals for their willingness to serve in this capacity:

Students:

Claire Kiernan '24
Mallory Mire '23
Maya Shah '23

Faculty:

Anna Eldridge '02, Director of Mock Trial and Pre-Law Advising
Rhiannon Graybill, Associate Professor, Religious Studies
Vanessa Rogers, Associate Professor, Music

Staff:

Richard Adams, Interim Assistant Dean of Students
Adora Browne, Director of Student Health Services
Pam Detrie, Director of Student Counseling Center
Claire Shapiro, Chief Human Resources Officer
Kyle Webb, Vice President for Finance and Business Affairs

I will be convening our first meeting in the next few days and will keep you updated on our work.

Jennifer M. Collins

President
Rhodes College

To our Rhodes students, faculty, and staff:

On June 24, the Supreme Court issued one of its most consequential opinions in decades when it overruled its 1973 decision in *Roe v. Wade*. This decision will have an enormous impact both across the country generally and here in Tennessee in particular, because Tennessee has a "trigger law," due to go into effect on July 24, which will ban almost all abortions in the state, except those necessary to protect life or prevent substantial harm to physical health.

I know this decision has caused enormous anguish for so many members of our community, and we are working to provide opportunities for discussion, dialogue, advocacy, and support. The Student Counseling Center will offer a virtual support group over the summer for students to meet for healing and community. Students who are interested in participating in the support group can call (901) 843-3128 or send an email to counseling@rhodes.edu for more information. Chaplain Beatrix Weil is available for emotional and spiritual support on this topic and can be reached by emailing weilb@rhodes.edu. She will also hold office hours in Burrow 421 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. this Friday. Our 24/7/365 support line staffed by licensed mental health professionals is available for in-the-moment mental health support by calling (833) 434-1217. Any Rhodes student who requires urgent or emergency counseling services outside of regular office hours should contact the Student Counseling Center at (901) 843-3128 or (855) 861-9253. Additional crisis information is available at the [Counseling at Rhodes site](#). We will also work in partnership with our students to develop in-person programming to launch once the fall semester begins.

There are understandably many questions about the impact of this decision on our health care coverage and resources for our students, faculty, and staff. We are putting together a task force to help us address these critical issues and will be announcing its composition shortly. In the meantime, I want to assure you that Rhodes remains steadfast in its commitments to maintain a compassionate, welcoming, diverse, and inclusive community; to support the physical and mental wellbeing of every member of that community; and to guarantee women's reproductive rights and autonomy to the fullest extent possible.

It is also important to acknowledge that we are an academic community whose members have many different views about the current Supreme Court and its decision in this case, as well as some of its other recent decisions. One of the hallmarks of the Rhodes community is our ability to discuss issues on which individuals may disagree both civilly and collegially, and we are committed to fostering open, respectful, and rigorous dialogue as we work to process the implications of this decision for our community. I will be back in touch with more details soon.

Sincerely,

Jennifer M. Collins

President
Rhodes College

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