



RHODE ISLAND COALITION OF BLACK WOMEN

VISION. VOICE. ACTION.

June 13, 2022

To Our Community,

The mission of the Rhode Island Coalition of Black Women (RICBW) is to cultivate, enrich, and empower Black women as advocates for the viability, equality, and equity of the Black community in the areas of employment, education, health, and economic development. In the wake of the Supreme Court's leaked initial majority draft opinion overturning Roe v. Wade, we are in one of the most controversial times in our nation's history.

As a nonpartisan organization we recognize in our advocacy for all Black women and girls, the need to make space for all perspectives. We cannot, however, remain silent in the face of legislation that has a significant impact on Black women and girls and an even greater impact on those who live in communities with fewer resources and for whom systemic racism and discrimination have created greater barriers to wealth and economic opportunities, education, healthcare, and reproductive justice.

The Rhode Island Supreme Court has upheld the Reproductive Privacy Act (2019) allowing women autonomy when making decisions about their reproductive health. This decision has not been without opposition and it is not enough to say, "it's not in my backyard" as the United States reproductive rights landscape has grown increasingly restrictive. More and more states are adopting laws that are in opposition to women's right to privacy and access to healthcare. It is imperative that as a community we remain vigilant and keep our eyes on the national stage as well as maintain a laser focus on our local concerns. Our vigilance means we hold our leaders accountable to the issues that are important to us. Our vigilance also means we exercise our voices and our votes in the upcoming 2022 elections.

RICBW stands firm and vocal in its commitment to supporting all women in their pursuit of access to health care services that have been adversely impacted by social, political and economic inequalities and we support a woman's autonomy to make decisions about her health.

In the spirit of peace and solidarity,

Angela Tucker Alston
RICBW President