

*NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt*

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7:13:22 p.m. [TEASE]

10 seconds

LESTER HOLT: In 60 seconds, 50 years after *Roe v. Wade*, America is an abortion battleground after the Supreme Court decision overturning it. We're in one state feeling intense new pressure.

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7:14:54 p.m.

2 minutes and 47 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: 50 Years After Roe]

HOLT: And this weekend marks 50 years since the *Roe v. Wade* decision. In the months since it was overturned, the U.S. has become a patchwork of laws varying from state to state. Anne Thompson with more now on the deep impact on clinics.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: 50 Years Since Roe v. Wade Decision]

ANNE THOMPSON: The days are nonstop at Florida's Jacksonville Health Center. 50 years after *Roe v. Wade* and seven months after the *Dobbs* ruling that overturned it, demand for abortion at this Planned Parenthood clinic hasn't slowed, says manager Jessica Wannemacher.

JESSICA WANNEMACHER: It's getting worse, honestly.

THOMPSON [TO WANNEMACHER]: What do you mean it's getting worse?

WANNEMACHER: The amount of patient load that we need to be able to see more patients.

THOMPSON: Four years ago, the clinic offered abortion services once a week. Now? It's up to five days. Dr. Shelly Tian specializes in high-risk pregnancies. [TO TIAN] Of the 63 patients you're seeing today, how many of those are seeking abortion services?

SHELLEY TIAN: The vast majority.

THOMPSON [TO TIAN]: Has it been like that since the Supreme Court decision?

TIAN: It has.

THOMPSON: Florida bans abortions after 15 weeks with narrow exceptions. It also requires two in-person doctor visits at least 24 hours apart, but the outright bans and heartbeat bills in neighboring states have more than doubled the out-of-state patients here. For opponents of abortion rights like Andrew Shervill, it is a frustrating consequence of the Supreme Court

decision.

ANDREW SHIRVELL: It's extremely — actually, it's extremely infuriating because here Florida's leading on so many other issues, but we should not be in this position at all.

THOMPSON [TO SHIRVELL]: So what's next?

SHIRVELL: What's next? Here in Florida, we're pushing for a complete abortion ban.

THOMPSON: But at the clinic Dr. Tian believes any restrictions come with dire consequences.

TIAN: Women are going to die because of what has happened to reproductive rights in this country.

THOMPSON: A recent Commonwealth Fund study analyzed data from 2020 and found maternal death rates were 62 percent higher in states that had abortion restrictions. The battle is now in states like Florida.

SHIRVELL: I think the *Dobbs* decision properly returned the public policy fight to the states and that for the foreseeable future is where activists on both sides are going to be engaged.

THOMPSON [TO SHIRVELL]: Should medical doctors have a role in crafting abortion law?

SHIRVELL: No, I don't believe so.

THOMPSON: Dr. Tian disagrees.

TIAN: It must be shared decision-making between the patient, her family, and her health care team.

THOMPSON: Do politicians have a role in this?

TIAN: Absolutely not. Absolutely not.

THOMPSON: Rulings may change, but the debate has no end in sight. Anne Thompson, NBC News, Jacksonville.