



Demonstrators march in front of the Capitol next to Kanawha Boulevard Saturday, as they protest the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling restricting abortion.

CHRIS DORST | Gazette-Mail

## Hundreds rally for abortion rights at Capitol

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Several hundred West Virginians took to the state Capitol on Saturday, urging politicians to take action to protect reproductive health care like abortion in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade.

The attendees rallied and marched through the rain, leaving protest signs demanding body autonomy on the steps and fence outside of the Governor's Mansion. Speakers, including state politicians, activists and members from service organizations dedicated to reproductive health, shared their own abortion stories and urged those in attendance to pay attention to who they elect in November.

The rally came as state leaders have yet to determine what West Virginia's final laws on abortion will be without the federally-guaranteed right that was afforded by Roe v. Wade. A law from

the 1800s that criminalizes abortion as a felony in the state could technically be enforceable again without the Roe decision.

The West Virginia arm of the American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit last month saying that law should not be enforceable due to other laws — like the 20-week abortion ban and others passed more recently — codifying at least some protections for abortion in the state.

Gov. Jim Justice is expected to call a special session in coming weeks for lawmakers to look at, and if necessary change, the state's abortion laws. There is currently no abortion access in West Virginia as the state's only provider halted procedures the day the Supreme Court released its decision on Roe.

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West Virginia Delegate Danielle Walker, D-Monongalia, speaks to demonstrators protesting at the Capitol Saturday, against the U.S. Supreme Court ruling restricting abortion.



Demonstrators march in front of the Capitol Complex next to Kanawha Boulevard and Greenbrier Street Saturday, as they protest the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling restricting abortion.



Demonstrators march in the rain in front of the West Virginia Capitol next to Kanawha Boulevard Saturday, as they protest the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling restricting abortion.



West Virginia Delegate Danielle Walker, D-Monongalia, (center) leads a march in front of the State Capitol Complex next to Kanawha Boulevard following a demonstration at the Capitol Saturday, protesting the U.S. Supreme Court ruling restricting abortion.



Demonstrators protest Saturday at the State Capitol Complex against the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling restricting abortion.