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Jewish Women International Horrified by Recent Supreme Court Rulings

Washington, D.C. – Jewish Women International, the leading Jewish organization working to end violence against women is horrified by the recent rulings by the Supreme Court allowing a craft store and furniture manufacturer to deny women under their employ equal access to basic medical care and eliminating the 35-foot “buffer zone” between protestors and patients of Massachusetts’ abortion clinics. Lori Weinstein, CEO of Jewish Women International issued the following statement:

“I am shocked that within days, the court has sent women’s rights backwards—removing hard-won protections and disallowing women the ability to make decisions about their own bodies. Women are now, thanks to these rulings, even more in danger of physical and emotional violence during an already emotional time. I have been an escort for patients at such clinics. I have felt the terror as we made the short walk into the facility. No one should be subject to that sort of harassment and abuse especially when seeking medical care. How dare the Justices, when they sit in their court, protected from protestors behind their own comfortable buffer zone and afforded full access to health-care benefits. What happened to equal protection under law?”

“This is not a matter, as Justice Scalia said, of ‘suppressing the freedom of speech rights’ of antiabortionists. This is not a matter of protecting religious freedoms for non-religious institutions. This is about every woman’s right to life, to safety of body and mind and to safety and access to healthcare. The Supreme Court has failed to protect the women of this country. We deserve better.”

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Jewish Women International is the leading Jewish organization working to end violence against women and girls domestically and internationally. JWI is a principal leader of the Coalition to End Violence Against Women and Girls Globally and a Steering Committee member of the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women. JWI’s advocacy efforts focus on the passage of legislation that supports women and girls ensures their economic security and their ability to live life free of violence. For more information, please visit www.jwi.org or call us at 800-323-2823.