



FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, July 12, 2022

CONTACT: Jacob Spiegel, jacob@crossmanforohio.com, 513-888-7211

AG Candidate Jeff Crossman Pledges to Honor Local Prosecutors' Decisions Against Prosecuting Ohioans for "Abortion Crimes" and Proposes Other Policies To Defend Reproductive Rights

While his opponent imposed a six-week abortion ban in Ohio, Rep. Crossman pledges to be an advocate for Ohioans seeking equality on reproductive decisions and healthcare. Crossman pledges to oppose government overreach into private family matters.

Columbus, OH - Following the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in Dobbs v Jackson and subsequent six-week abortion ban imposed by the current Ohio Attorney General, the Democratic Nominee for Ohio Attorney General **State Representative Jeff Crossman** (D-Parma) held a press conference stating his position and priorities for the Attorney General's office on the issue of abortion. Rep. Crossman pledged to be an "adamant defender of anyone seeking freedom from government intrusion into reproductive decisions," and detailed the policies he would implement as Ohio's Attorney General, including:

- **Honoring local prosecutors' decisions against prosecuting Ohioans for crimes associated with their reproductive or medical rights and refusing to override local prosecutorial decisions.**
- Protecting the privacy of patients, including patient/doctor confidentiality and cyber privacy from government overreach.
- Providing accurate information for Ohioans on their legal rights related to reproductive care, including providing out of state resources should people seek to travel to secure the medical care they need.
- **Pledging to refuse to dedicate Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) resources - which are directly overseen by the Attorney General's office - toward supporting abortion related prosecutions.**
- Supporting Mayor Nan Whaley's push for a ballot initiative, including a swift review of the ballot language for approval and defending activists' efforts to acquire the requisite signatures to get the issue on the ballot. Rep. Crossman highlighted how "petition blockers" were used to subvert the effort to repeal HB6 with a ballot initiative and pledged to defend activists against these types or other techniques to interfere with the right to get the issue on the ballot.

“So many in Ohio are fearful about what’s happening here, but there is hope. There is time to set Ohio on the right path by selecting new state leaders who will adamantly protect healthcare rights and reproductive freedom. It’s time for an Ohio Attorney General who will protect all Ohioans from extremist government overreach and I intend to take on that challenge as the next Attorney General and be a fighter for all Ohioans,” said Rep Crossman. “This issue is not even close to being resolved,” Crossman continued, “There will be much more happening on this issue and I encourage everyone to pay attention to the Attorney General’s race.”

Rep. Crossman was joined by **Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio President and CEO Iris Harvey** who discussed how Yost’s six-week abortion ban will impact care in this state. “This struggle has moved from the national stage to individual states. Nearly half of women and others who can get pregnant will lose the opportunity to have abortion care, but banning abortion will not take away people’s need to have abortion access. We’re at a point where people who do not have the access or the resources to travel out of state may be forced to carry pregnancies against their will. This decision means the number of people forced to overcome these huge hurdles to essential healthcare will skyrocket” said President Harvey.

Northeast Ohio-based obstetrician-gynecologist Dr. Samantha Clark, who is a member of Ohio Physicians for Reproductive Rights, also joined the conference and she shed light on the difficult realities of these reproductive decisions in light of Roe being overturned. “You’re forcing people to carry a full term baby who isn’t going to survive,” Dr. Clark pointed out. “I just couldn’t imagine walking through the grocery store and having to listen to everyone ask ‘how’s your baby? What’s your baby’s name?’ When you know that your baby is not going to survive. It’s cruel. The social injustice of these laws are just overwhelming these patients,” said Dr. Clark.

For a recorded copy of the press conference, please email jacob@crossmanforohio.com.

###