Dear Chair Spruill and Ranking Member Sickles,

Thank you for your continued leadership and service to the Commonwealth of Virginia. We write today to urge you to take prompt action to protect abortion access for all Virginians.

The Supreme Court’s decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health reversed decades of precedent guaranteeing women the right to make personal health care decisions. We are alarmed by the number of states that have implemented total or near-total abortion bans, restricting access to reproductive freedom for millions of women. We are also concerned that Governor Youngkin has indicated that he plans to take Virginia in a similar direction. Shortly after Dobbs was decided, he directed Republican members of the General Assembly to craft legislation to significantly limit abortion access in Virginia.

Attacks on reproductive freedom disproportionately impact vulnerable populations, including low-income women, women of color, young Americans, and individuals living in rural communities. Abortion restrictions are also out of step with the Virginia majority. Sixty-seven percent of Virginians believe that abortion should be legal in all or most cases, and in the 2022 election, voters across the country vastly rejected extremist restrictions on abortion. In August, Kansas voters rejected a ballot measure that would have eliminated the right to abortion in their state constitution. Then, in November, voters in Kentucky and Montana rejected anti-abortion referendums in their own states, and voters in Michigan, Vermont, and California passed referendums codifying the right to abortion in their state constitutions.

When the Supreme Court abandoned constitutional protection of reproductive rights, it indicated that it was the responsibility of “the people and their elected representatives” to act. Given the unprecedented assault on reproductive rights, it is imperative that the right to abortion be enshrined in the Virginia Constitution and codified in Congress. We urge you to advance legislation that would allow these rights to be codified into the Virginia Constitution, and we will continue to work to codify reproductive freedom at the federal level.

3 Christopher Newport University. (2022, October 20). Mid-term mixed bag: Virginians split not only on policy, but even on what issues matter as November approaches. Retrieved November 18, 2022, from https://cnu.edu/wasoncenter/surveys/archive/2022-10-12.html.
6 Dobbs at 69.
We appreciate your ongoing work in the General Assembly to protect reproductive rights in Virginia, and we look forward to working with you to protect the reproductive rights of all Virginians.

Sincerely,

A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

Mark R. Warner
United States Senator

Tim Kaine
United States Senator

Jennifer Wexton
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

Abigail Davis Spanberger
Member of Congress

Elaine G. Luria
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress