



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Lawyers Across the Country Condemn Unconstitutional Texas Abortion Law

BOSTON, MA – [Lawyers Defending American Democracy](#) (LDAD), a national organization of lawyers dedicated to protecting the rule of law, has published an [Open Letter](#) condemning the new law in Texas, which bans abortions if a fetal heartbeat is detected and creates a bounty hunting system of enforcement. LDAD's letter rebukes this "pernicious" law, which the authors and signers agree is an "unconstitutional affront to our democratic principles and the rule of law."

The letter, which has already garnered over 1,250 signatures from prominent lawyers, judges, and others of note throughout the country – takes a pointed aim at the enforcement of the Texas statute, stating:

"In effect, Texas has created a vicious vigilante system that victimizes women. Its insidious enforcement scheme sets the stage for the creation of a predatory and ruthless industry that will enrich those who successfully litigate against anyone offering assistance to a woman seeking a constitutionally-protected health procedure in the United States."

LDAD was founded in January 2019 to galvanize lawyers to defend the rule of law.

"All lawyers take an oath to defend the Constitution. For this reason, we have a unique responsibility to speak out against this unconstitutional law," states **Debra Danburg, a former State Representative and the former Assistant Director of Texans for the ERA**, and a signer of LDAD's open letter. "I am reminded of a quote by Dante. The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who in a period of moral crisis maintain their neutrality."

**Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum**, also a fellow signer of the letter adds: "This unconstitutional ban on abortion threatens the health of Texans and disproportionately harms those with low-income and people of color. It's an insidious strategy designed to turn individuals against each other in the hope of recovering a bounty as their reward, without regard for the harm they are causing to others, to the community, and to the health care system in Texas and its neighboring states."

**LDAD co-founder Scott Harshbarger** notes: "Our letter today is a call-to-action for all Americans, but in particular lawyers and bar associations across the country, to use their legal skills to combat copycat legislation from being enacted elsewhere, as many states have already threatened to do, and to encourage each state to act immediately to protect women's reproductive rights."

LDAD's letter calls on the United States Congress and Supreme Court to take steps to codify Roe v. Wade, nullify the Texas statute, and prevent its enforcement.

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**About Lawyers Defending America Democracy**

Founded in 2019, Lawyers Defending American Democracy (LDAD) is a 501(c)(4) organization seeking to galvanize lawyers to defend the rule of law in the face of unprecedented threats to American democracy. Its open letters and statements have been signed by over 12,000 supporters nationwide. LDAD's efforts to seek attorney disciplinary action against former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, former Attorney General William Barr, and Texas Attorney General Kenneth Paxton for legal ethics violations have been covered by national media, including the New York Times, the Washington Post, Newsweek, and USA Today, and regional publications around the country. Letters, ethics complaints, statements, and briefs are available at [ldad.org](http://ldad.org).