

**The Financial Burden of Forced Pregnancies,
by Hannah Shelley
Abstract**

This paper will analyze the studies of the effect motherhood has on a woman's ability to earn a salary equal to that of her male colleagues. The paper will explore how the Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* (2022) contributes to the negative impact of sex-based income inequality by essentially forcing women into unwanted pregnancy. The gender wage gap, that women earn less than their male counterparts, is an ongoing problem in many countries and many point to motherhood as a major factor in this issue. This paper will argue that even before the recent *Dobbs* decision threatened the future of women's equality, conservative states have attempted to keep women as second-class citizens financially. Legislators in these conservative states have continued to weaponize women's autonomy and thereby jeopardize the future lives of children.