



PRESS RELEASE
IOSCO COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY
JUNE 26, 2022

DANA NESSEL ADDRESSES GATHERING AT SHORELINE PARK

Michigan Attorney General, Dana Nessel stopped by Shoreline Park in Tawas City last Thursday at a picnic put on by the Iosco County Democratic Party. She was welcomed by over a hundred well-wishers and spoke extensively about her work to serve Michigan's people during her first term.

The Attorney General's consumer protection divisions have actively fought against companies that try to take advantage of Michigan consumers, whether it be through unfair utility rate increases or unscrupulous business practices. She launched the Department's Auto Insurance Fraud Unit to investigate and prosecute individuals and businesses that exploit Michigan residents and the system designed to protect the safety of Michigan's drivers. And she established the office's first Payroll Fraud Enforcement Unit to crackdown on individuals and businesses who try to cheat Michigan's workers out of their pay and retirement benefits.

Since taking office, Attorney General Nessel has been a champion of the state's most important natural resource – its Great Lakes. Marveling at the beauty of Lake Huron and its importance to our health and economy, she affirmed that she and Governor Whitmer will continue legal action to shut down Line 5 and protect our Great Lakes for generations to come. She has also joined the battle to combat the largest public health crisis in our nation – prescription drug addiction – and to stem the tide of Michigan's biggest environmental crisis in decades – PFAS contamination.

As the State's Chief Law Enforcement Officer, Attorney General launched Michigan's Elder Abuse Task Force, in partnership with the Michigan Supreme Court, to stop the rise of crimes against one of the state's most vulnerable populations. She has continued the Department's criminal investigations into the Flint Water Crisis and sexual abuse in the Catholic Church and the Boy Scouts of America. And she has created a Conviction Integrity Unit to investigate claims of innocence so that even when the state's most heinous crimes are prosecuted, we can ensure the public's trust in our criminal justice system.

Ms. Nessel went on to caution the crowd about the impacts of the United States Supreme Court overturning their decision in *Roe v. Wade*. In her opinion, it would enable state governments to interfere in a matter which should be left up to a pregnant woman in consultation with her doctor, partner, and pastor. Michigan's 1931 abortion law, which is currently being challenged, would make almost all abortions a felony with up to four years in prison. Both doctors who assist in abortions and pregnant women who use medication for self-abortions could be charged.



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The law – one of the strictest in the nation – does not grant exceptions in cases of rape or incest. It does grant exceptions to “preserve the life” of the mother, however, experts aren’t sure exactly what that means. When considering other factors – such as the risk level, the viability of the fetus, or pre-existing conditions that may be worsened by the pregnancy – many doctors are concerned about the phrase’s ambiguity. Some physicians say they would be forced to decide if a pregnancy is risky enough to justify an abortion under the 1931 law, and to defend themselves if charged.

Ms. Nessel is concerned the 1931 law could have a chilling effect on doctors’ willingness to perform procedures on people whose pregnancies are no longer viable, out of fear they’d be exposed to potential charges. “You won’t have basic medical health care that is required for women not to have extreme health problems or even die,” she said. “Doctors simply are not going to perform those procedures anymore because they don’t want to go to prison for it.”

Ms. Nessel herself underwent a procedure that would likely be considered illegal under the state’s law. At the time, she was pregnant with triplets – but they weren’t developing as they should. “I was told very, very specifically that there was no way that all three would make it to term...But if I aborted one, that it was possible that the other two might live. ...I took my doctor’s advice... And you know what? It turned out that he was right. And now I have two beautiful sons. ...Politicians do not belong in our doctor’s offices. They don’t belong in our bedrooms, and they should not be making these kinds of decisions on behalf of the American public and on behalf of women across America.”

As she wrapped up her address in the park, Attorney General Nessel warned of the rising tide of radical, violent, right-wing extremism. Voter suppression and election subversion laws are being passed in other states and the same can happen here. The leading Republican candidate for governor was arrested this month for his alleged involvement in the Capitol riots. He allegedly encouraged insurrectionists to climb up a stairway of the Capitol building and destroyed Federal property. Ms. Nessel’s political opponent filed a lawsuit over Antrim County election results, which triggered ongoing conspiracy theories over voting machines and put him on the frontlines of Donald Trump’s attempt to overturn the 2020 presidential election results. He has been criticized by a Republican-led Michigan Senate panel that accused him of making false claims for personal profit.