

Chief Justice John Roberts
Supreme Court of the United States
One First Street NE
Washington, D.C., 20543

February 26, 2016

Dear Chief Justice Roberts:

We, the undersigned representatives of media and pro-transparency organizations, are writing to urge the Supreme Court to provide audio recordings of 15-274, *Whole Woman's Health v. Cole*, and 15-674, *U.S. v. Texas*, on an expedited basis.

The issues presented in these cases – abortion and immigration – are some of the most hotly contested in our nation’s civil discourse. Millions of people will be impacted by how these cases are decided, and we believe the public should hear the justices and attorneys grapple with the subjects at the soonest available moment.

We understand that oral argument is but a small portion of what goes into a case. Yet it is also one of only two opportunities, the other being an opinion announcement, for which members of the public, no matter where in the country they live, may hear directly from the justices, and we believe they should be afforded that opportunity the day a case is presented.

As the Court's media policies are debated internally, at the Judicial Conference and in legal circles across the country, we hope in the meantime that the Court allows for an expedited release of audio recordings for the most closely watched cases of the term, whose outcomes may shape our society for years to come.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

American Society of Magazine Editors
Sid Holt, Chief Executive

American Society of News Editors
Pam Fine, President

Association of Alternative Newsmedia
Blair Barna, President

Demand Progress
Daniel Schuman, Policy Director

Fix the Court
Gabe Roth, Executive Director

National Press Photographers Association
Mickey Osterreicher, General Counsel

OpenTheGovernment.org
Patrice McDermott, Executive Director

Radio Television Digital News Association
Mike Cavender, Executive Director

Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press
Bruce Brown, Executive Director

Society of Professional Journalists
Paul Fletcher, President