Anna Summerlin, 43, came to the protest on the steps of the Georgia State Capitol to set an example for her 5-year-old daughter.

“She shouldn’t have to go backwards, thinking and worrying about her rights,” Summerlin said. “She has been taught that she has control over her body, yet here we are today, and she doesn’t. Our government does.”

Her fellow protester, Jessica Stoeger, a teacher in Cobb County, said the Supreme Court’s ruling on Roe v. Wade, combined with the court’s other decisions this week expanding gun rights, made her want to get involved with Saturday’s protest.

“We can’t protect our kids in schools because guns are more important than kids. Babies that aren’t even born yet have more rights than I do as an adult,” she said, holding a sign that read “pro life would be 20 Sandy Hook students starting high school.” “That’s unacceptable.”

Hilda Jacobo, 33, felt disheartened and alone when she learned that the court had overturned Roe v. Wade Friday morning. The intersection of her Mexican-American identity and her job as a nurse practitioner in Atlanta motivated her to attend the protest to emphasize the disproportionate impact of abortion bans on communities of color.

“I feel like if I can be their voice in a field where Mexican-Americans are not the majority, then I have to do my part,” Jacobo said. “I hope that [the protest] speaks to what the data shows: abortions are best when performed safely.”

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John Isbell, 25, from Fayetteville, was overcome with “desperation, sadness and rage” when the Supreme Court overruled Roe v. Wade Friday.

Isbell has a younger sister that will be affected by the court’s decision, and their mother lost a close friend in college to a coat hanger abortion.

“It’s a very personal issue,” they said, holding a coat hanger. “Today, I feel very inspired being surrounded by everybody who has the same views.”

Many protesters, including Isbell, expressed disillusionment with the nation’s political system in reflecting on the court’s back-to-back rulings expanding gun rights and restricting safe abortion.

“We just need to smash the system and make a new one because clearly, it’s not working,” Isbell said. “We’re not willing to be complicit anymore. We’ve had enough and we’re willing to do what it takes to get the change that we need.”

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Melissa Karamat, 33, brought three generations of her family to Saturday’s protest. She carried her young son in her arms as her mother and husband took turns pushing his stroller as protesters marched around the Georgia State Capitol.

“My mom was really upset, and for us, raising [my son] it’s just really important for him to understand that rights are something you fight for,” Karamat said.

As a longtime advocate, Karamat felt “devastated and defeated” when she learned the court had overruled the decision. She had been voting, protesting and donating for so long that the ruling made her feel like her activism “just doesn’t work.”

But when she looked at the crowd of more than 200 abortion rights activists marching down Washington Street on Saturday afternoon, she felt less alone. Friday was a day of mourning, Karamat said, but Saturday marked a day to pick herself up and take action.

“Seeing parents and people from all walks of life, all fighting for the same thing, I feel less defeated,” Karamat said. “We want to do what we can to keep pushing forward.”

For Kirsten Shinn, 18, the court’s decision on Roe v. Wade did not truly sink in until Saturday morning.

“It feels like we’re not even seen as human right now,” Shinn said. “It’s absolutely surreal.”

With the decision coming down just months before voting in her first election, Shinn added that the ruling should be a call to action for elected officials to support abortion rights.

“We are taking time out of our day, as 18-year-olds, to be protesting this, which is just not right in any sense. We shouldn’t be having to do this,” Shinn said. “If [elected officials] can’t see that, what else can be done?”