Roe v. Wade: Is it Time for it to Go?
By Josh Brahm, Director of Education and Public Relations, Georgia Right to Life

A lot has changed since 1973. “The Brady Bunch” was still airing new episodes on TV, and teens were buzzing about the amazing new video game, “Pong.” It’s obvious that a lot of things have changed in the last 33 years, yet groups like Planned Parenthood and the National Organization of Women are tenaciously trying to cling on to the 1973 Supreme Court decisions that legalized abortion through all nine months, for any reason. Is it time for these decisions, Roe v. Wade and its companion case, Doe v. Bolton, to go?

The Public is Ready for an Overturn of the Roe/Doe Decisions
Public opinion polls show that the majority of Americans are pro-life. A poll by Princeton Research Associates, and part of a two-year study showed that 51 percent of those surveyed believe that “abortion should only be allowed in cases of rape, incest, if the life of the woman is endangered, or not at all.”¹ These people would probably be interested to know that according to Planned Parenthood, only one percent of women having abortions became pregnant due to rape, and less than 0.5 percent became pregnant due to incest.² Emergency abortions to save a woman’s life are also extremely rare. According to the same study, only four percent of women having abortions reported their health as being the primary reason to abort.³

Teens are proving to be the most pro-life generation yet. A recent national poll from Hamilton College finds that high school seniors say that abortion is morally wrong and that they support legislative proposals that would limit abortions and help women find alternatives. The poll also found that 72 percent of females in the class of 2006 would not consider an abortion if they became pregnant.⁴

When Does Life Begin?
In 1973, seven out of nine Supreme Court justices decided that they could not determine when life begins. This played a crucial role in the Roe v. Wade decision. However, there has been an explosion of technology and knowledge in the medical community in the last 33 years, and this question has been definitely answered. Life begins at the moment of

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fertilization. This isn’t really a debate anymore, and it’s published in the medical textbooks as fact. 4D ultrasounds are an amazing window to the womb, and the more images we see of developing pre-born babies doing things like playing with their toes, getting the hiccups, even crying, the harder it gets for abortionists to call this living baby a mere “blob of tissue” or “disease.”

Physical and Emotional Damages of Abortion
We can see after 33 years how much women are being hurt by abortion, both physically and emotionally. Study after study shows that after an abortion, a woman has an elevated risk of breast cancer; cervical, ovarian, and liver cancer; uterine perforations; cervical lacerations; complications of labor; ectopic pregnancy; Pelvic Inflammatory Disease; and approximately 10 percent of women undergoing elective abortion will suffer immediate complications, of which approximately one-fifth are considered life threatening.

Sadly, the emotional damage is usually worse than the physical damage. It has been said, “It is easy to scrape a baby out of the womb but not so easy to scrape the aborted baby out of the mind.” In a study of post-abortion patients only eight weeks after their abortion, researchers found that 44 percent complained of nervous disorders, 36 percent had experienced sleep disturbances, 31 percent had regrets about their decision, and 11 percent had been prescribed psychotropic medicine by their family doctor.

Approximately 60 percent of women who experience post-abortion syndrome report suicidal ideation, with 28 percent actually attempting suicide, of which half attempted suicide two or more times. "Women who report negative after-effects from abortion know exactly what their problem is," observed psychologist Wanda Franz, Ph.D., in a March 1989 congressional hearing on the impact of abortion. "They report horrible nightmares of children calling them from trash cans, of body parts, and blood," Franz told the congressional panel.

“Roe” and “Doe” Are Now Pro-Life!
Even the women originally involved in the two 1973 Supreme Court decisions are trying to overturn those laws. Norma McCorvey, the “Roe” of Roe v. Wade, and Sandra Cano from Georgia, the “Doe” of Doe v. Bolton are actively pursuing the end of Roe and Doe. They both testify that they were used as pawns in a much bigger game by lawyers that manipulated them because of their situations and even lied about their cases to pass the abortion laws.

What If?
So what would happen if Roe v. Wade was overturned? Pro-abortion and feminist groups are screaming that abortion rights will end at that point. Unfortunately, that’s simply not true, and anyone with an elementary understanding of government process knows that’s not the way it works. The decision would go back to the state legislators. It is much easier to hold state legislators more accountable to their citizens than Congress. If pro-lifers across the country kept their legislators accountable, then ultimately the power has been given back to the people of this country to protect life. What’s wrong with that? That’s the way our country is supposed to be.
No, correcting Roe v. Wade is not the final answer, but it’s a huge step in the right direction. The ultimate pro-life goal is an amendment to the U.S. Constitution stating that the right to life is a fundamental right at every stage of biological development, including fertilization. Please join Georgia Right to Life as we work to protect life, and to stop the discrimination against those that are smaller and weaker than us – the pre-born.

Sources:


15: Wanda Franz, Ph.D., testimony, U.S. Congress, House, Human Resources and Intergovernmental Relations Subcommittee of the Committee on Government Operations, Hearing on Medical and Psychological Impact of Abortion, 101st Congress,