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Abortion Rights in the United States of America

On Friday, June 24th 2022, America took a step backwards. The supreme court overturned Roe v. Wade, which will take away a women's constitutional right to an abortion. Abortion is the deliberate termination of a human pregnancy, most often performed during the first 28 weeks of pregnancy. So many factors go into why some women need to get abortions, which include but are not limited to illness during pregnancy, rape, incest, can't afford to have the baby, contraceptive failure, barriers to contraceptive use and access etc. Regardless it should be up to women, whether they want to terminate their pregnancy or not. Personal beliefs and religion should not play a part in politics, all women should have the right to their own choices, taking away this right can only cause problems going forward.

In 1973, Norma Mcorvy, a single unemployed pregnant woman was seeking an abortion in the state of Texas and was declined it. She was known by the alias Jane Roe, to protect her privacy, and filed suit in federal court. Henry Wade was the defendant and he was the district attorney in the Texas county where Mcorvy sought out the abortion. Roe argued that a ban on abortion was unconstitutional and she asked the court to issue an order that would stop enforcing that law in Texas. They found that Texas restriction on abortion was unconstitutional, but the court did not issue an injunction to bar Texas from enforcing its ban. This meant that Roe's options in Texas didn't really change, so she appealed the case right to the U.S supreme court. Justice Blackmun was in Roe's favor and found that the implied zones of privacy are broad

enough to include a woman's right to choose to terminate her pregnancy. The court struck down the Texas law since it restricted a woman's right to choose to terminate her pregnancy in the first trimester. Abortion was now legalized up until recently where Roe v. Wade was overturned and now states have the ability to withdraw citizen rights to get an abortion. This is a major issue considering that so many women need access to safe and accessible abortions.

Since the U.S isn't a theocracy, it should not matter if your religion is against abortion or not, women should still have the choice over their own bodies. In an article by Steven K. Green he states "Most anti-abortion rallies have signs and banners with religious admonitions such as "pray for life" and "pray to end abortion"." This is absurd because no matter what, religion should not play a part in politics, pushing your religious beliefs onto other people is unethical. In the First Amendment, it familiarly states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." (U.S. Const. amend I.). It may not be stated directly, but implied in the establishment clause that there is in fact a separation of church and state. At the end of the day, religious beliefs should not get pushed on others or be involved with matters of state.

Abortion should be considered health care, it should be a basic right women have, but considering the fact that states have already started to ban abortion, it's not. Banning abortion causes so many problems and complications to women. Research has proven that restricting access to abortion negatively affects physical and mental health. An article states, "Where abortion is illegal or highly restricted, women resort to unsafe means to end unwanted pregnancies, including self-inflicted abdominal and bodily trauma, ingestion of dangerous chemicals, self-medication with a variety of drugs, and reliance on unqualified abortion providers."(ACOG). Instead of getting the safe access and support women deserve, some

women have to go through risky means to terminate their pregnancy. Not having access to abortions does not only harm the person needing it. Children born as a result of abortion denial are more likely to live in poverty and other studies show that they face other social, emotional and mental health problems leading into adulthood.

We can not consider America to be the “land of the free” if people can’t even have a basic human right. With Roe v. Wade overturned, there are probably so many people struggling knowing that abortion is banned in their state. Boundaries of the separation of church and state need to be made clear by pushing the fact that denying abortions is going to cause tremendous amounts of harm. Some hope still remains, states like New York give abortion access to people in state, as well as people coming outside of New York. Citizens and those visiting will be guaranteed privacy and the rights they deserve.

By donating to abortion funds and donating to abortion clinics, support is provided to those seeking abortion care. Even by attending a rally or even simply educating your friends, family and colleagues about how abortion is essential, can do so much. The U.S. stopping women from having the simple right to the choice over their own bodies is equivalent to a country that will never truly be considered “free”.

