



Roe v. Wade; 31 Years Strong But Under Constant Attack

During this the 31st year of *Roe v. Wade*, CWLC urges you to support this landmark Supreme Court case by taking action to strengthen and protect women's reproductive health and rights. California, unlike other states, took a significant step forward last year and codified *Roe v. Wade* in its constitution, ensuring abortion will remain legal in our state regardless of attempts to overturn it at the federal level. We must not become complacent, however, because anti-choice forces are working to weaken *Roe v. Wade*, both in California and across the nation, by eroding its foundations and thereby dramatically restrict a woman's ability to obtain abortion services. For example:

- **The Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003** – This vaguely worded law prohibits several safe abortion procedures, is not limited to third-trimester abortions, and contains no exception to protect the health of the woman. Signed into law November 2003, it is the first-ever federal abortion ban.
- **Parental Consent and Notification Laws*** – More than half of all states require parental consent or notification prior to a minor's abortion.
- **Informed Choice Laws** – Over 20 states force women to delay an abortion procedure as long as 48 hours in order to receive state mandated information.
- **Mandatory Waiting Periods** – 15 states require women to wait 24 hours after their first consultation to receive an abortion.
- **Global Gag Rule on International Family Planning Assistance** – Foreign non-governmental organizations are disqualified from U.S. family planning assistance if, *with their own funds*, they provide legal abortion services or "lobby" on abortion.
- **Domestic Discriminatory Abortion Funding Restrictions**– Both the federal and state governments impose restrictions on Medicaid funding for abortion.
- **Targeted Regulation of Abortion Provider (TRAP) Laws** – 35 states have enacted at least one TRAP law singling out abortion providers and subjecting them to stringent medical, administrative, and facility requirements that are not required of comparable facilities.
- **Physician-Only Laws** – 35 states have imposed laws limiting access to a medical abortion (Mifepristone (RU486)).

** In California, anti-choice operatives have succeeded in collecting the required amount of signatures to put a Parental Consent and Notification Law Initiative on the November, 2004 ballot. In the coming months we will provide you with more information about the pending initiative and how you can help defeat it.*