

ABORTION Choosing Life!

Every human life has intrinsic value. Medical science clearly confirms human life begins at conception. Because human life begins at conception, it is an appropriate, indeed necessary, role of government to protect all human life from that point.

Current State of Legal Affairs

The current state of the law in the United States provides that a woman has a constitutional right to abortion. On January 22, 1973, in a 7-2 ruling, the United States Supreme Court issued its infamous Roe vs. Wade decision declaring that unborn children are not "persons" entitled to Constitutional protection. Instead, the Court declared that women possess a Constitutional right to privacy, which includes the right to have an abortion. As a result, state laws outlawing abortion were declared unconstitutional by the Court. Since that time, nearly 1 million abortions are performed each year, resulting in the deaths of over 43 million innocent children (Earll, Carrie Gordon. (2005). *Abortion Statistics*. Retrieved from www.family.org).

An Historical Comparison

In 1857, also in a 7-2 ruling, the United States Supreme Court issued a similarly tragic decision in the also infamous Dred Scott decision. In *Dred Scott vs. Sanford*, the Court held that slaves were not "persons" entitled to Constitutional protection. There is a disturbing 19th century ring of familiarity in contemporary arguments favoring abortion rights.

Supporters of abortion rights often quip: "Opposed to abortion? Then, choose not have one. But don't impose your convictions upon me. The Supreme Court has declared abortion legal." Slavery proponents in the 1800s made similar arguments. "Opposed to slavery? Then, choose not to own slaves. But don't impose your convictions upon me. The Supreme Court has declared slavery legal." Only after a civil war and adoption of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the Constitution, did the tragedy of Dred Scott begin its reversal.

Public Policy Opportunities

While the Supreme Court has not yet reversed itself on the abortion issue, subsequent court decisions have upheld the right of state government to establish certain limits on the right to abortion. Hawaii Family Forum supports all such limits, including:

- · Requiring parental notification & consent for minors seeking abortions;
- · Requiring a 24 hour waiting period for women seeking abortions;
- · Requiring the informed consent of women seeking abortions; and,
- · Restricting late term abortions, including the "procedure" known as partial birth abortion.

The Unborn Child - Marvelous to Behold - A Few Facts

- From the moment of conception, the new life is male or female, completely unique and independent except for the requirements of nutrition, oxygen, time and shelter. (Dr. & Mrs. J.C. Willke, *Abortion, Questions & Answers*, revised 1991 pp. 34,36)
- At only 18 days, the unborn child's heart begins to beat. By 21 days it is pumping blood through a closed circulatory system whose type is different from that of the mother. (J.M. Tanner, G.R. Taylor, and the Editors of *Time-Life Books, Growth*, New York:Life Science Library, 1965, p. 64)
- Brain waves have been recorded at only 40 days on the Electroencephalogram (EEG) and is "reliably present only six weeks after conception." (H. Hamlin, "Life or Death by EEG," *JAMA* Oct. 12, 1964, p. 120)