

Title:

Outlawing Abortion.

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Outlawing Abortion

Thesis: Abortion should be outlawed, but until it is, pro-lifers should work to change the hearts of women seeking an end to their pregnancies.

Summary: The landmark 1973 United States Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade* asserted that women have the right to an abortion. However, this ruling is misunderstood: pro-choice advocates believe that by overturning the decision, the Supreme Court would be outlawing abortion, which is inaccurate, because only a constitutional amendment would make abortion a federal issue. Reversal of *Roe v. Wade* would simply return the issue of whether a woman could terminate her pregnancy to the states. Until such a reversal is made, pro-life advocates should work to change the attitudes of women seeking an end to their pregnancies by providing counseling, supplies, and support for potential parents. The sonogram is often used as a powerful tool to persuade women not to have an abortion, since it provides a heartbeat for what grows inside them, which makes abortion a more difficult decision.

[Abortion and the Law](#)

Abortion is not a federal issue. It is, at most, a state issue. This issue of federal versus state law is not polarizing, so pro-choice groups tend to shy away from it. The National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League (NARAL), for example, recently began an advertising campaign about the perceived ills of a country without legalized abortion. In one advertisement, a woman came across a newspaper with the headline: "Abortion outlawed" plastered across the front page.

This would be fine if it were referring to a story about a constitutional amendment banning abortion.

However, the actions of NARAL and other pro-choice groups suggest otherwise.

Before *Roe v. Wade*, abortion was left to the states to decide. That was the point of Norma McCorvey's argument. A Texan, she was prohibited by state law from aborting her baby. According to the ruling, McCorvey told the court she could not afford to cross state lines to have an abortion. She argued that Texas law violated her right to privacy.

[Changing Hearts](#)

Abortion should be outlawed, but until it is, pro-lifers should work to change the hearts of women seeking an end to their pregnancies. Crisis centers such as Pregnancy Lifeline of Fort Worth, Texas do a marvelous job of showing young girls and women the perils of aborting children, and the joy associated with carrying them to term. Relying primarily on volunteers, Pregnancy Lifeline serves a variety of women, from teenagers to older women.

After counseling the women - and the potential fathers - non-profit organizations often provide guidance and supplies for new mothers, who may not otherwise be able to afford the basic items needed to care for newborn babies.

One of the more powerful tools used to persuade women to carry their babies to term is the sonogram. Once a woman sees that the thing growing inside of her has a real heartbeat and is not a lifeless mass (as some pro-choice activists would have her believe), getting rid of the baby suddenly becomes very difficult. For most, it is not an option.

[Changing Sides](#)

Many might frown at the idea that hearts can change, but before dismissing the thought as simplistic, consider McCorvey's story. A former abortion clinic worker, she is now a leading advocate for the pro-life cause. After becoming a Christian, she was baptized by pro-life activist Reverend Flip Benham and, in 1998, accepted into the Roman Catholic Church as a member of a Dallas parish. On her Web site, www.roenomore.org, McCorvey delivers an inspiring testimony on how Benham's Operation Rescue to transform her life.

The dangers of ending a pregnancy are great, and are never discussed by those who seek to preserve the right of women to have abortions. For the pro-choice message to prevail, it must be free of the negative consequences of abortion.

If the physical, emotional and spiritual scars experienced by women who have terminated pregnancies were discussed openly by those who seek to protect the right to an abortion, support for the procedure would dwindle. Many Americans, while personally opposed to the practice, are afraid to take a stand against abortion, fearing that they will be marginalized as radicals if they tell women it is wrong to end a pregnancy prematurely.

[Consequences and Regret](#)

Abortion has taken the lives of more than 40 million babies since 1973. Often lost among the chatter surrounding this depressing statistic is the pain felt by women who now regret their decisions not to carry their babies to term.

Silent No More, a group seeking to give a voice to women who have undergone abortions and now work to end the procedure, has taken an active role 30 years after *Roe v. Wade*.

According to Georgette Forney, the group's co-founder, "very little attention is given to women who have actually had abortions. I regret having an abortion, and I know there are millions of women who feel the same way."

Lawmakers and judges should listen to women like Forney. She had an abortion at the age of 16, and has suffered the consequences ever since. The pro-life movement should embrace Forney and others who have shown the courage to talk about the consequences that followed their tragic decisions.

[Conclusion](#)

The words of these women provide strong evidence to others contemplating a decision to abort their innocent unborn children. The members of the US Congress must stand for judicial appointees with a strong understanding of constitutional law in order to further the pro-life movement in America.