

Providing medical care should not be a dangerous profession.

Help stop the attacks on Abortion Providers and a woman's right to choose.

Six years ago today, Dr. David Gunn was brutally murdered outside of a Pensacola, Florida clinic by an anti-abortion protestor. Since then, anti-abortion violence has been on the rise. More than 15 severe forms of violence against abortion providers and women's health clinics were committed in 1998. Despite picketers, stalkers, threats of anthrax contamination, and even murder, abortion providers make unimaginable sacrifices to help women access the reproductive health services they need.

Today, March 10, is Abortion Provider Appreciation Day.

We ask you to honor abortion providers by thanking them in writing. These cards will be delivered to four major health facilities that provide abortions in the Greater Boston area. **Please join us as we appreciate abortion providers for their courage and commitment to a woman's right to choose.**

How Can I Get Involved?

* Reproductive Rights Task Force Meetings:

- > Tuesday, March 16 at 7 p.m. at the NOW office
- > Tuesday, April 20 at 7 p.m. at the NOW office

* Clinic Visibilities:

- > Saturday, March 13 at 8 a.m.
- > Saturday, April 10 at 8 a.m.

Meet at the NOW office or at Planned Parenthood at 1055 Comm. Ave.

* Other Events:

> Conference for Student and Community Activists, "The Fight for Abortion Rights and Reproductive Freedom" - April 9-11 at Hampshire College in Amherst, MA. Contact (413) 559-5645 for more information.

> Open Meeting for Greater Boston NOW, "Social Security: A feminist concern" and a look at NOW's activities. Thursday, April 29 at 7pm at 30 Winter Street.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, TO BECOME A NOW MEMBER, OR TO VOLUNTEER, PLEASE CONTACT THE NOW OFFICE AT (617) 232-1017.



March 10th is National Day of Appreciation for Abortion Providers. Don't take choice for granted.

Some Facts About Abortion in the United States

- ◎ 84% of U.S. counties have no abortion provider
- ◎ 80% of Massachusetts hospitals with women's health sections do not provide abortions.
- ◎ There are one-third fewer abortion providers now than in 1982.
- ◎ Only 12% of Ob-Gyn residency programs require 1st trimester abortion training, and only 7% require 2nd trimester training
- ◎ 89% of abortions occur in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy
- ◎ There have been approximately 2,100 reported instances of violence against abortion providers since 1977
- ◎ Severe violence continues to plague 25% of all clinics.
- ◎ Almost 60% of clinics experience some form of picketing.
- ◎ Since January 1992, there have been 99 clinic attacks using butyric acid totaling more than \$900,000 in damages
- ◎ To date, 7 men and women have been killed because they were involved in the provision of abortion services. Many other physicians and staff have been seriously injured.
- ◎ One out of six abortion patients describes herself as born-again or an evangelical Christian. 33% of women who have abortions and disclose their religious affiliation describe themselves as Catholic.

"Without the providers, there is no 'choice'!"

Ron Fitzsimmons, Executive Director NCAP

Facts obtained from National Organization for Women and the Abortion Access Project, 552 Mass. Ave, Ste. 215, Cambridge, MA 02139, (617) 661-1161, info@repro-activist.org.



3/19

ON DECEMBER 30, 1994

Shannon Lowney and LeeAnn Nichols were murdered and five other workers were wounded at two Brookline health clinics **because they supported a woman's right to choose.**

ON DECEMBER 30, 1999

We mark this day as an attack on our physical access and legal right to reproductive health services.

We remember these two women and **honor the**

work of thousands of others like them across the country who put their lives on the line each day to provide essential health services for women.

We protest the daily harassment of reproductive health care providers and threats and acts of violence against clinics.

We rededicate ourselves to securing access to abortion services and comprehensive reproductive freedom for all women.



In remembering Shannon and LeeAnn, and calling for an end to clinic violence, Greater Boston NOW is joined by:

Boston Center for Independent Living ♦ CCW Worker's Center ♦ CPPAX ♦ Citterion Hastings Health Center ♦ Emerge ♦ Freedom House ♦ Jane Doe Safety Fund ♦ Mass NARAL ♦ Mass NOW ♦ National Association of Social Workers, MA chapter ♦ Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice of MA ♦ Sojourner Feminist Institute ♦ Sojourner: The Women's Forum ♦ Women's Health Institute ♦

HELP KEEP ABORTION SAFE, LEGAL, & ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL WOMEN

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- **Tell it like it is.** Help create a living history of the importance of choice by contributing your story, time, or money to NOW's Oral History of Reproductive Rights Project, **My Voice/My Choice**. Call 617-232-1017 for more info.
- **Act up.** Join Greater Boston NOW's Reproductive Rights Task Force and help shape the movement for accessible and safe reproductive choice. Meetings are held the 1st Thursday of the month at 7 PM at 214 Harvard Ave., Allston.
- **Make your support visible.** Come out to clinic visibilities the second Saturday of every month at 9 AM at 1055 Commonwealth Avenue, Allston.
- **Join NOW.** Call 617-232-1017 or email us at mass-now@hotmail.com for membership information or to learn more about NOW's work for equality and justice for women and girls.

UPCOMING PRO-CHOICE EVENTS:

- ♦ **Thursday, January 6, 7 PM** ♦ Repr. Rights Task Force ♦ 214 Harvard Ave. ♦
 - ♦ **Saturday, January 8, 9 AM** ♦ Clinic Visibility ♦ 1055 Commonwealth Ave. ♦
 - ♦ **Wednesday, January 19, 4:30 PM** ♦ MA Coalition for Choice's *Roe v. Wade Anniversary Event* ♦ Nurse's Hall, State House ♦
 - ♦ **Wednesday, February 9, 6:00 PM** ♦ Pro-choice, Pro-Faith Panel Discussion ♦ Arlington St. Church, 351 Boylston St. ♦
- ♦ For more information about these events, please contact the NOW office at 617-232-1017 ♦

CELEBRATE RIGHT TO PRIVACY DAY

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1999 – 8:30PM

BOSTON UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
765 COMMONWEALTH AVE., BOSTON, MA.

HONORING HISTORIC U.S. SUPREME COURT REPRODUCTIVE CIVIL RIGHTS VICTORIES SUCH AS BAIRD V. EISENSTADT (MARCH 22, 1972) WHICH LEGALIZED BIRTH CONTROL NATIONALLY FOR SINGLE PEOPLE (INITIATED BY BOSTON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS) HELPING TO ESTABLISH THE RIGHT OF PRIVACY WHICH WAS QUOTED IN ROE V. WADE AS WELL AS IN BAIRD V. BELLOTTI I & II

INVITED PARTICIPANTS ARE:

BILL BAIRD – ABORTION/BIRTH CONTROL PIONEER AND HOLDER OF THREE U.S. SUPREME COURT VICTORIES FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

U.S. SENATOR JOSEPH TYDINGS, ESQ. – WHO ARGUED BAIRD V. EISENSTADT BEFORE THE U.S. SUPREME COURT

JOSEPH BALLIRO, ESQ. – FAMED BOSTON UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL GRADUATE WHO ARGUED BAIRD V. EISENSTADT AS WELL AS BAIRD V. BELLOTTI

JOAN GREEN, ESQ. – FAMED BOSTON ATTORNEY FOR BAIRD V. BELLOTTI

ROY LUCAS, ESQ. – FAMED CONSTITUTIONAL ATTORNEY WHO PRESENTED MANY BRIEFS TO THE U.S. SUPREME COURT AS HE DID WITH BAIRD V. BELLOTTI

LONNY MYERS, M.D. – MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES

SANDY RAPP – NATIONALLY KNOWN FEMINIST SINGER/AUTHOR

MUSIC BY: THE RUSSELL SISTO EXPERIENCE

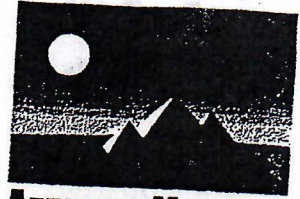
FOR THE FIRST TIME THE INSIDE STORY OF HOW THESE STRUGGLES FOR REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM WERE FOUGHT WILL BE HEARD. BILL BAIRD WAS ARRESTED AND CONVICTED AS A FELON FOR GIVING A SPEECH TO 2,500 BOSTON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS APRIL 6, 1967, AT THEIR INVITATION LEAD BY BU NEWS EDITOR, RAY MUNGO . HIS "CRIME" WAS EXHIBITING BIRTH CONTROL/ ABORTION DEVICES AND GIVING AWAY FREE ONE CONDOM AND ONE CONTRACEPTIVE FOAM TO AN UNMARRIED STUDENT. BAIRD WAS CONVICTED AND SENTENCED TO THE CHARLES STREET JAIL FOR 3 MONTHS.

MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

CALL: JONI SCOTT FOR MORE INFORMATION (516) 673-6871 OR E-MAIL BBAIRD322@AOL.COM

RL

Roy Lucas
Limited Federal Practice



**ATTORNEY-MEDIATOR
WASHINGTON, DC**

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Academy of Population and
Reproductive Health Counsel
Law Center for Cancer Survivors
Private Citizen
Academy of Million Dollar Counsel
Council of Mensa

Bill Baird
Pro Choice League
PO Box 324
Huntington, NY 11743

March 10, 1999

RE: PRIVACY DAY

Dear Bill:

To me, "Friend of Bill" means a "Friend of Bill Baird."
I have been your friend some thirty years now.

I want to join you in spirit at least to celebrate the
Anniversary of *Eisenstadt v Baird*. Eisenstadt may be
forgotten, but Baird will always be remembered.

At present I am tied up on several federal cases in Florida
involving modern privacy law problems.
Significantly, today and yesterday, I cited and relied on the
Eisenstadt v Baird decision in briefs I am writing.

Quite frankly, I was far more excited by the *Eisenstadt v Baird*
decision than by *Roe v Wade*. After *Baird*, *Roe* was a foregone
conclusion.

And, I was not surprised to see *Eisenstadt v Baird* cited and
relied upon by Courts in Canada, Ireland, Australia, and others
around this Nation and the World.

So, I salute you Bill for this and your many other contributions
to the law and progress of human civilization. Would that there
were ten of you.

Please give my regards and love to the entire gathering.

Roy
Roy Lucas

Florida Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1433, Melbourne, FL 32902-1433
Tel: 407-725-2413

Fax: 407-725-3847



National Organization for Women - New York State, Inc.

4 Avis Drive, Latham, NY 12110 • 518-782-1NOW (782-1669) • Fax: 518-782-0866

Bill Baird, Director
Pro Choice League, Inc.
PO Box 324
Huntington, New York 11743

March 18, 1999

Dear Bill,

I am thrilled to learn that Right to Privacy Day, honoring your historic US Supreme Court victory *Baird v. Eisenstadt*, will be celebrated March 20th at Boston University Law School. I wonder if people today realize how their lives would have been adversely affected had you lost your case which, by legalizing birth control, enabled millions of unmarried people to prevent countless unwanted pregnancies. Unfortunately, many people take for granted those hard-earned rights that came from your tremendous sacrifices, such as being imprisoned for lecturing 2,500 Boston University students about reproductive freedom way back on April 6, 1967?

Previously, I wrote that you will go down in history as one of the great heroes of human liberation and dignity. I and others place you in the same category as Margaret Sanger, Susan B. Anthony and Dr. Martin Luther King. Dr. King was a great leader for African American rights. He was African American. Margaret Sanger, Susan B. Anthony and Harriet Tubman were great leaders for women's rights. They were women. You have contributed so much to the rights of women, yet you will never feel the pangs of an unwanted pregnancy. Your sensitivity to the suffering of others is an inspiration to all. You lead us to realize that one doesn't have to be a woman to feel for women, be Black to feel for Blacks or be gay to feel for lesbians and gays.

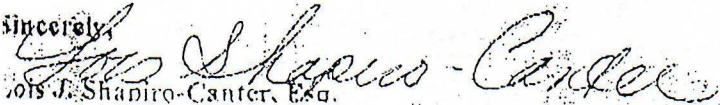
I anticipate that the feminist community, particularly Boston NOW, will support the historic work you have done for humankind, by joining you on Right to Privacy Day. I warmly remember when you were Keynote Speaker for the 1997 NY State NOW Convention. We awarded you our prestigious Reproductive Rights plaque for the over three decades of pioneering work you have done, particularly your historic efforts in Massachusetts.

I realize that this is the first time the Massachusetts pro-choice community is recognizing the right to privacy as outlined in *Baird v. Eisenstadt*. It is long overdue! I hope this is a new beginning for others to acknowledge that the success of our movement requires that men and women work together in equal partnership. You are a great role model. I am puzzled and saddened that some of the Massachusetts feminist and pro-choice communities fail to recognize your great contributions to the feminist movement. After all, pro choice groups such as Planned Parenthood have received millions of dollars in grants and patient fees as a direct result of *Baird v. Eisenstadt*.

As a practicing attorney and President of New York State NOW, I agree with the highly regarded constitutional lawyer Roy Lucas who recently wrote: "...I was far more excited by the *Eisenstadt v. Baird* decision than by *Roe v. Wade*. After *Baird*, *Roe* was a foregone conclusion. I was not surprised to see *Eisenstadt v. Baird* cited and relied upon by Courts in Canada, Ireland, Australia, and others around this Nation and the World."

I am sure the Boston University Law school community realizes how fortunate they are to have you as a speaker on March 20. I have heard you numerous times and always marveled at the standing ovation that you receive. I know of no more eloquent speaker for women's rights and human liberation than yourself. There is great excitement about your being the Keynote Speaker at SUNY Albany, March 30th for Women's History Month. True to form, the \$3,000 fee for your speech will be donated to the Pro Choice League to help others.

It is not often that law professors and students have the opportunity to see a living legend, such as yourself, step out of the constitutional law books to address his three US Supreme Court victories which they must study to graduate. Speaking for myself and countless others, it is truly an honor to share the movement for freedom with you. Congratulations on this very special day to you and all the other honorees.

Sincerely,

Lois J. Shapiro-Canter, Esq.

bbaird 322 @ aol.com

BALLAD OF BILLY BAIRD

(c) Sandy Rapp 1996

Eight times in jail was Billy Baird, that young and gentle pioneer
Took to the streets when he saw a woman die from an underground abortion.
What keeps ya goin' Billy Baird? What keeps the flowers in your hair?
You been so long singin' the good song. You keep the sixties rollin' on.

He bought a van with all he had, and set about to spread the word,
When just a mention of prevention was illegal to be heard..
Three times in Court was Billy Baird, the highest Court in all the land.
When it was seen as criminally obscene to speak of a parenthood that's planned.

"If the right of privacy means anything at all,
It is to choose whether or not to bear a child,"
So spoke the Court in 'seventy two when Billy Baird's first case
Made birth control legal for singles in the USA.

chorus:

What keeps ya goin' Billy Baird? What keeps the flowers in your hair?
You been so long singin' the good song. You keep the sixties rollin' on.

There was a bomb in 'seventy-nine. No doubt that Bill was meant to die.
Billy escaped but the morning break found they burned his clinic to the ground.
They see the devil in his face, and shoot the windows from his place.
They're for creation not information and they've killed nine providers now to date.

And the Court decided twice again for Billy Baird.
And cited *Baird v. Eisenstadt* six times in *Roe v. Wade*.
Then Bill faced jail again this time for rights of gays,
For years he was denied the vote for felonies such as these.

Some leaders thought he'd cut a deal, too radical to be for real.
Maybe he's here to play, maybe he's CIA, maybe he wouldn't last for long.
Thirty years and nine has been and gone. Billy's doin' fine and goin' strong.
Still he's without a dime, fightin' the good fight, keepin' the sixties in his song.

repeat chorus

Promoting Reproductive Choices



Mass NARAL

November 1, 1999

Jonathan -
Dear Mass NARAL Supporter,

Thank you for supporting our first ever **SWING FOR CHOICE** Event on Wednesday, October 13, 1999.

While the event was a huge success, our work did not end with the last dance Wednesday night.

Currently, Mass NARAL is working to pass two priority pieces of legislation – the Buffer Zone Bill (S.148) and Contraceptives Coverage Bill (S.733). Your State Representative and State Senator need to hear from you. I have enclosed fact sheets on these priority bills. We will be successful with your help.

The Buffer Zone Bill would increase public safety outside reproductive health clinics. The Contraceptives Coverage Bill would ensure equitable health insurance coverage of contraceptives. Ask for their support of these bills, let them know their support is important to you and that you are monitoring their votes.

I urge you to review the enclosed materials and pick up the phone and ask your State Representative and State Senator to support both the Buffer Zone Bill (S.148) and the Contraceptives Coverage Bill (S.733). Then let us know their response. They can be reached at 617.722.2000. If you do not know who your elected officials are, please contact me at 617.556.8800 ext. 13 or mara@massnaral.org.

Please be our partner in making sure that our elected officials support the full range of reproductive choices.

Thank you!

For choice,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mara Sands".

Mara Sands
Organizing Director

P.S. Note our upcoming volunteer opportunities! And let me know if we can provide you with Pro-choice Email Action Alerts.

**Celebrating 25
years of promoting
reproductive choices**

Massachusetts National Abortion
and Reproductive Rights Action League
(formerly Mass Choice)

Statler Building
20 Park Plaza, Suite 1129
Boston, MA 02116-4399

Phone: (617) 556-8800
Fax: (617) 338-2532



PPLM

Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts
1055 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215-1001
(617) 616-1660 fax 617-616-1665 TTY (617) 787-3276
<http://www.pplm.org>

Planned Parenthood®
League of Massachusetts, Inc.

Buffer Zone Legislation (s. 148) Questions and Answers

What is a buffer zone?

Buffer zones are specifically defined public area surrounding entrances, exits, and driveways of certain facilities (in this case, reproductive health care facilities) where access is restricted or sharply limited.

What does this bill do?

This legislation creates a 25 foot buffer zone surrounding entrances and driveways to reproductive health care facilities. It allows people to enter and leave reproductive health care facilities free from harassment, intimidation, and harm.

Why is this legislation necessary?

In Massachusetts, reproductive health care facilities have been the targets of many blockades, protests, disturbances, and even violence, which left two persons dead and many injured on December 30, 1994. Staff and patients entering have been subject to harassment and intimidation. For many women, a reproductive health care facility is the only place where they receive primary and preventive health care services.

Existing law does not adequately protect the public safety in and around reproductive health services facilities because they do nothing to prohibit impediments to access, including face-to-face confrontation and other forms of physical and emotional intimidation.

Buffer zones protect public safety around reproductive health care facilities by keeping entrances open, maintaining distance between individuals, minimizing physical contact, and reducing harassment and intimidation. This legislation significantly protects individuals' right to personal liberty, privacy, and access to unrestricted health care services.

Who is allowed to go through/enter the buffer zone?

All individuals entering or leaving reproductive health services facilities; employees or agents of these facilities acting within the scope of their employment; law enforcement, ambulance, firefighting, construction, utility and public works agents acting within the scope of their employment; and persons using the public sidewalk or street right-of-way adjacent to reproductive health care facilities solely for the purpose of reaching a destination other than the facility will be allowed in the buffer zone area.

What is prohibited by this bill?

Since no person except those listed above may knowingly enter the buffer zone, no one can trespass on, sit in, block, congregate in, picket, patrol, or demonstrate on or in the 25 foot restricted area.

According to this legislation, what are reproductive health care facilities?

For the purposes of this legislation, "reproductive health care facility" shall mean a place, other than within a hospital, where abortions are offered or performed.

How is this legislation different from the federal Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act (FACE)?

FACE prohibits the use of force, threat of force, or physical obstruction to intentionally injure, interfere with, or intimidate any person seeking or providing reproductive health care services. FACE does not specifically require demonstrators to keep clear of clinic entrances, patients or staff.

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Supreme Court to Rule on so-called "Partial Birth Abortion" Ban

The Supreme Court expanded Reproductive Rights from 1965-1979; since 1979 the Courts have taken away rights, granting states the power to enact increasingly restrictive legislation. The Supreme Court case currently under consideration could permit states to strip women of their right to obtain an abortion even if their health is in danger.

The case before the court is not about a medical procedure but is really part of an ongoing legal strategy to deny women's freedom to choose abortion by trying to undermine *Roe v. Wade*. In fact, the bill could apply to all abortions at any time, effectively nullifying the right to choose. The bans also do not provide an exception to protect a woman's health.

Courts in 20 states have struck down or severely blocked these bans on the grounds that the legislation is so vague that it could eliminate most abortion procedures. Only the 7th Circuit Court endorsed the bans. Because of these conflicting rulings, the case has been accepted for consideration by the Supreme Court.

Today, women's rights hang in the balance. Two previous major Supreme Court decisions, *Wehster v. Reproductive Health Services* and *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey*, have severely undercut a woman's freedom to choose abortion. Pro-choice people are asking, will this be the decision which will undercut the importance of women's health, right to privacy, and the role of doctors in making medical decisions?

Join our Advocates Network!

Joining Planned Parenthood's Responsible Choices Action Network is an easy way to keep up-to-date on federal and state initiatives that affect reproductive choice. As an advocate, you have the power to influence your lawmakers and elected officials in defending family planning, sexuality education, and reproductive freedom. Legislators and elected officials need to know that most voters are pro-choice, support family planning, and favor comprehensive sexuality education. Even if you have never done advocacy work before, we can show you how to take **quick, effective, easy** action when it will help the most.

To join the Network,
call 617-616-1668, or email
publicinfo@pplm.org

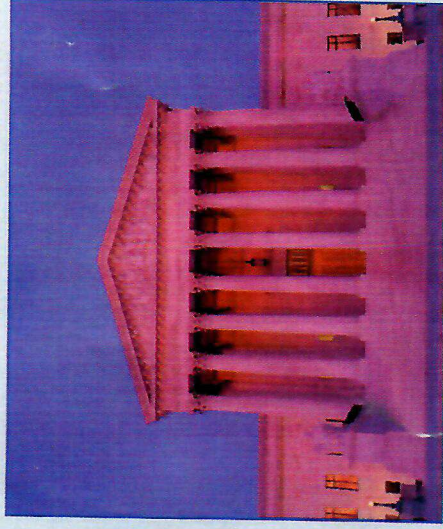
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Planned Parenthood®
of Western Massachusetts
110 Maple Street, Suite 215
Springfield, MA 01105-1875
(413) 732-1620

Background on the upcoming Supreme Court decision

2000



Planned Parenthood®
League of Massachusetts, Inc.
1055 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA 02215-1001
www.PPLM.org

Why have the courts found these bans to be unconstitutional?

- The bans do not contain exceptions when, in the physician's judgment, the banned conduct is necessary to preserve the woman's health and the exceptions provided to protect a woman's life are too narrow to be of any value.
- The language that defines the banned "procedure" is vague about what it forbids and includes language that could be used to describe many abortion methods. Such a ban is unconstitutional because it is an "undue burden"—a substantial obstacle—on access to abortion.
- There is no permissible state interest to justify these bans as the Supreme Court has previously defined those interests. The permissible state interests have been defined as promoting maternal health and protecting potential life after viability. The Seventh Circuit defined a new state interest in "moral considerations." If the Supreme Court upholds this new state interest, new state restrictions on abortion would result.

Abortion Restrictions In Effect for the state of Massachusetts

- Abortion is illegal after 24 weeks unless the life or health of the woman is in danger.
- A minor under the age of 18 must obtain written consent from one parent to have an abortion or must go to court and ask a judge to decide if they are mature enough to make this decision.
- Insurance coverage may be restricted for employee health plans.

Supreme Court to Rule on so-called "Partial Birth Abortion" Ban

The Supreme Court expanded Reproductive Rights from 1965-1979; since 1979 the Courts have taken away rights, granting states the power to enact increasingly restrictive legislation. The Supreme Court case currently under consideration could permit states to strip women of their right to obtain an abortion even if their health is in danger.

The case before the court is not about a medical procedure but is really part of an ongoing legal strategy to deny women's freedom to choose abortion by trying to undermine *Roe v. Wade*. In fact, the bill could apply to all abortions at any time, effectively nullifying the right to choose. The bans also do not provide an exception to protect a woman's health.

Courts in 20 states have struck down or severely blocked these bans on the grounds that the legislation is so vague that it could eliminate most abortion procedures. Only the 7th Circuit Court endorsed the bans. Because of these conflicting rulings, the case has been accepted for consideration by the Supreme Court.

Today, women's rights hang in the balance. Two previous major Supreme Court decisions, *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services* and *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey*, have severely undercut a woman's freedom to choose abortion. Pro-choice people are asking, will this be the decision which will undercut the importance of women's health, right to privacy, and the role of doctors in making medical decisions?

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Why have the courts found these bans to be unconstitutional?

This pending legislation is unrelated to the current Supreme Court deliberations but is a critical piece of legislation for the people of Massachusetts.

The Buffer Zone Bill is a proposed piece of legislation for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and is not currently being contested at the federal level. The bill has not been passed by the Massachusetts legislature. The Buffer Zone Bill would create a 25-foot safety zone around entrances and driveways to health care facilities that provide abortion services. This public safety measure would allow patients, staff, and visitors to enter facilities without the threat of harassment, intimidation, and harm.

The constitutionality of the legislation was tested by sending it to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court for an advisory opinion. On January 26, 2000, the Supreme Judicial Court rendered an advisory opinion that the Buffer Zone Bill does not infringe on the right to freedom of speech or the right of people to peaceably assemble. Efforts continue to pass the legislation in Massachusetts.

To stay informed and involved, join the Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts Advocates Network. Call (617) 616-1668 or send email to publicinfo@PPLM.org.

Join us

Join us
Choose
keep up
that ad
cate,
lawma
famil
reprod
offici
pro-cho
compr
you ha
we can
easy

Pre

sues Dallas District Attorney Henry Boren except to save the woman's health and may regulate abortion to protect potential life and health.

1979 Colautti v. Franklin

The Court hears a challenge to provisions of Pennsylvania law requiring a physician to perform an abortion to determine if fetus is not viable. If physician finds that fetus "is or may be viable," he/she is required to exercise degree of care in performing abortion that would have been exercised if a live birth were intended. The Court finds that these provisions are "void for vagueness" because meanings of "viable" and "may be viable" are unclear. Decision on viability must be left to the good-faith judgment of the physician. Provisions are also unconstitutional because they impose criminal liability on physicians regardless of their intent to violate the law.

1992 Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey

The Court agrees to rule on a challenge to Pennsylvania's 1989 Abortion Control Act, which requires that, except in narrowly defined medical emergencies: (a) a woman wait 24 hours between consenting to and receiving an abortion; (b) the woman be given state-mandated information about abortion and offered state-authored materials on fetal development; (c) a married woman inform her husband of her intent to have an abortion; and (d) minors' abortions be conditioned upon the consent, provided in person at the clinic, of one parent or guardian, or upon a judicial waiver. In addition, physicians and clinics that perform abortions are required to provide to the state annual statistical reports on abortions performed during the year, including the names of referring physicians. As Counsel for the United States, Solicitor General Kenneth W. Starr urges the court to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. Though four justices agree and argue that *Roe* should be overruled outright, the Court votes 5-4 to "retain and once again reaffirm" *Roe*'s "essential holding." The Court also rules 5-4 that all of the Pennsylvania restrictions except for the husband-notification requirement are constitutional. The court constructs a new standard of review that allows restrictions on abortion prior to fetal viability so long as they do not constitute an "undue burden" to the woman. The three upheld restrictions are ruled not unduly burdensome merely because they are an attempt to persuade a woman to carry her pregnancy to term.

ii D)

ged in *Bellotti I* (1976) interpreted by the Massachusetts, requiring: (a) that a parent's consent before minor files a petition for abortion and (b) the judge hearing the minor's petition finds that an minor's best interests. constitutional. All minors approach a judge without and the proceedings must r must be given permission of the judge's view as to ature minor must be per-ortion, if the abortion is

1989 Webster v. Reproductive Health Services

The Court hears a challenge to Missouri's 1986 Act that: (a) declares that life begins at conception; (b) forbids the use of public funds for the purpose of counseling a woman to have an abortion not necessary to save her life; (c) forbids the use of public facilities for abortions not necessary to save a woman's life; and (d) requires physicians to perform tests to determine viability of fetuses after 20 weeks gestational age. In a ruling that opens the door to state regulation of abortion, the Court (a) allows the declaration of when life begins to go into effect because five of nine justices agree that there is insufficient evidence that it will be used to restrict protected activities such as choices of contraception or abortion; (b) the Court unanimously declines to address the constitutionality of the public funds provision, accepting Missouri's representation that this provision will not restrict publicly employed health care professionals from providing full information about abortion to their clients; (c) the Court upholds the provision that bars the use of public facilities. It rules that the state may implement a policy favoring childbirth over abortion by allocations of public resources such as hospitals and medical staff; (d) the Court upholds the provision requiring viability tests by interpreting it not to require tests that would be "imprudent" or "careless" to perform.

2000 Carhart v. Stenberg

The Court will almost certainly reexamine *Roe* as it hears arguments concerning a Nebraska law seeking to restrict abortion with three key provisions: (a) the statute contains no exception to preserve health of the woman and an extremely narrow provision to save the life of the woman. If upheld, the Court will abandon what one circuit court has described as the constant thread in all abortion jurisprudence—the primacy of women's health; (b) physicians risk prosecution when they use procedures commonly used in pre-viability abortions but that are banned in the Nebraska law. Many doctors are expected to avoid any procedure that might fall in the statute's language, even if it is medically advisable; (c) the 7th Circuit did not attempt to establish justification linking the state's interest to maternal health or potential life, but to "moral considerations." This could easily open a Pandora's box of frightening possibilities for further state restrictions on abortion, and indeed other constitutional rights as well.

In this section:

CRLP press

June 28, 2000



Supreme Court Rules

Statement of LeRoy Carhart, MD.

I am both elated and proud to have taken a case to the United States Supreme Court that reaffirms a woman's right to choose abortion. Today's victory is more than a victory for me, Lee Carhart. It is more than a victory for abortion providers. It is more than a victory for the millions of Americans who are pro-choice. This is a victory for all Americans who believe that the government must not be allowed to meddle in private medical decisions best left to women, their families and their doctors.

I believe that by pursuing justice, I have had the opportunity to expose the lies anti-choice politicians and extremist organizations have devised to hurt women's health, overturn the right to choose, and to criminalize doctors who provide the finest possible medical care to their patients. With this verdict, I and the pro-choice movement can, with the backing of the highest court in our nation, begin to undue the damage these lies and deceptions have cost us, with lawmakers, members of the media, and the public.

The Court agreed today that Nebraska's ban is not about "late" abortion, nor is it limited to any particular procedure. Medical groups, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, have long contended that the ban could apply to all stages of pregnancy. The Court has acknowledged we are right by accepting our argument that the bans are nothing but deceptive attempts to overturn the right to choose to have a safe and legal abortion.

I challenged Nebraska's ban because it violates the Constitution. It threatens the health of women. And it is an affront to fundamental American principles. It is wrong for the government to intervene in the personal and private decisions of families to support a political agenda. It is wrong for politicians to use the lives of women to gain an electoral office. We as a society cannot afford to slip back to the days when women were sacrificed by illegal abortion. I saw the human toll of that inhumane policy and I assure you we do not want to return to that terrible time.

I am proud to be an American with the right to seek

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- >6/2/00 Reproductive Rights are Central to Women's Lives - Beijing +5
- >6/2/00 Maternity Patients Challenge South Carolina Police-Hospital Drug Testing Scheme in U.S. Supreme Court
- >6/1/00 Arizona Must Fund Medically Necessary Abortions for Low-Income Women
- >5/30/00 Florida Abortion Ban to be Reviewed by Federal Judge
- >5/26/00 Florida Ban on Abortion Challenged in Federal Court
- >5/19/00 Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals to Hear Arguments in Louisiana Abortion Liability Law
- >5/18/00 Final Arguments to be Heard in Federal Court on Indiana Abortion Restrictions

justice in the highest court in the land. I am proud to have served my country as a member of the Air Force for most of my adult life. I am proud that I have provided my patients with the best medical care available in this country. And I am proud that my name will be forever associated with a case that confirmed women's health and lives cannot be sacrificed to an anti-choice political agenda.

I thank my wife, Mary, my son and daughter, my terrific clinic staff and the medical and pro-choice communities for standing by me through the years of fighting to provide abortion services in Nebraska. Without this support, I would have remained a lone voice in Nebraska.

Today's Supreme Court victory makes me feel that the price we've paid in terms of harassment, personal loss, and legal and financial difficulties has been worth it. Doing this work has taken enormous tolls on us, but standing up and fighting back is the only way I know how to rid the world of the scourge of anti-choice extremists, including government officials who are willing to lie, deceive and abuse their power to drive abortion out of existence. This victory would not have been possible without my attorneys and the staff at the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy, who have provided me with both the best legal representation possible, as well as the confidence that we would prevail. I thank them for their commitment to justice.

>5/14/00 Mother's Day is an Opportunity to Acknowledge the Women of the World

>5/12/00 Florida Court Recognizes Young Women's Right to Make Abortion Decisions Without Notifying Parents

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>3/29/00 Court Asked to Find Nebraska Abortion Ban Unconstitutional
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>3/6/00 Winning the Struggle for Reproductive Rights: Beijing +5 Years of Wins, Losses and Stalemates

>03/03/00- Arizona Court to Hear Medicaid-Funded Abortions Case

>3/01/00 Arizona TRAP Case Filed

>02/28/00 Nebraska asks U.S. Supreme Court to Gut

June 28, 2000



U.S. Supreme Court Finds So-Called "Partial-Birth Abortion" Bans Deceptive, Unconstitutional

Strikes Down Nebraska Abortion Ban by 5-4 Vote

Washington, DC -Today, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Nebraska ban on so-called "partial-birth abortion," finding it an unconstitutional violation of *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark decision that guaranteed women's right to choose abortion 27 years ago. The Court's decision in *Stenberg v. Carhart* exposed these bans for what they are: extreme and deceptive attempts to outlaw abortion --even early in pregnancy -- that jeopardize women's health. The Court's decision will have the domino effect of rendering similar bans passed in over 30 states and Congress unconstitutional or unenforceable.

"Today the Supreme Court exposed the deception behind these bans. But, today's 5-4 decision also demonstrates that the right to choose is a fragile one. Roe v. Wade is a right that has been subject to successful political attack. Year after year, tactic after tactic, deceptive and extreme campaigns have been waged to overturn the right to choose. We fought back this time, but what's next?" said Janet Benshoof, president of CRLP and co-counsel in the case.

"The Court did not close the door to anti-choice politicians who seek to topple Roe. However, from this day forth, it will no longer be credible for politicians to claim to be pro-choice while supporting these abortion bans," said Benshoof.

In a majority opinion written by Justice Breyer, the Supreme Court affirmed that restrictions against abortion in the first half of pregnancy lacking provisions to protect women's health violate *Roe v. Wade* and other precedents guaranteeing the right to choose abortion. In addition, the Court determined that the effect of the bans went well beyond prohibitions against so-called "late term" abortion, finding the ban to be so broad and vague that constitutionally protected abortion procedures performed early in pregnancy could be prohibited.

Justice Breyer wrote that the Nebraska ban violates the Supreme Court precedents *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned*

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Parenthood v. Casey by failing to include an exception to preserve the health of the woman and by imposing an undue burden on a woman's ability to choose an abortion. Breyer wrote that the cases "*make clear that a risk to a woman's health is the same whether it happens to arise from regulating a particular method of abortion, or from barring abortion entirely.*" The majority decision was supported by five Justices. Four separate dissenting opinions were filed by Justices Rehnquist, Scalia, Kennedy, and Thomas, demonstrating that Roe and the right to choose is imperiled.

Simon Heller, CRLP's Director of Litigation, who argued the case before the Court on April 25, said, "*We are elated that the Court recognized that women in America have a fundamental constitutional liberty to protect their health. The majority opinion confirms that this was a direct assault on the right to choose, and the strong dissents demonstrate the fragility of that right.*"

CRLP presented three arguments to the Court. First, the Nebraska law and others like it are deceptive measures that would outlaw virtually every abortion provided in America, second, the bans are extreme in that they make no exceptions for women's health and criminalize doctors for providing the safest medical care, and third, the laws are unconstitutional because they deny women the right to choose abortion guaranteed by *Roe v. Wade* and Planned *Parenthood v. Casey*.

CRLP represented Dr. LeRoy Carhart, the Nebraska physician who challenged the abortion ban in 1997. "*I am proud that the Supreme Court has recognized these criminal abortion bans for what they are--a threat to women's health and a violation of the right of all Americans to obtain medical care without government intervention in the doctor-patient relationship,*" said Dr. Carhart.

So-called "partial-birth abortion" bans have been passed in 31 states. Courts have blocked or limited bans in 18 states. Today's ruling all but guarantees that state and federal courts considering the constitutionality of the bans will follow the High Court's ruling and strike down the remaining state statutes. For an analysis of the status of abortion bans in the states, visit CRLP's website at www.crlp.org

For more information about the Supreme Court case *Stenberg v. Carhart* (99-830), please visit the special report on our website.

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- TIMELINE of REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS in the UNITED STATES

Pre-colonial and Colonial Era: Abortion is legal and is performed in America, as it has been for thousands of years in every known society.

1821: Connecticut passes the first of many state laws in the United States barring abortions after "quickening" (the point when the fetus is viable)

1860: Twenty states have laws limiting abortion

1873: The Comstock Anti-Obscenity law is passed, effectively banning the dissemination of birth control information in the mail.

1880's: Enough states have anti-abortion laws that it is considered a period of prohibition of legal abortion, which lasts until ROE v. WADE in 1973. State laws banning abortion were motivated by several factors, including the fear of immigrants taking over the population, and the push by doctors to make the field of medicine an exclusive profession.

1913: The term "birth control" is born when Margaret Sanger organizes her first pro-contraception group. The National Birth Control League.

1916: Margaret Sanger opens the first birth control clinic in Brooklyn, NY. She is promptly arrested.

1954: Women volunteers participate in the first experimental trials on humans of oral contraceptives in Shrewsbury, MA.

1960's: The US government establishes family-planning programs in the South in predominately Black urban areas.

1961: The FDA approves oral contraceptives for use, and in 1961 it becomes available.

1965: The Griswold v. Connecticut Supreme Court decision establishes the right of married people to get information, instruction, and advice about contraception.

1966: NOW is founded, with a start-up budget of \$140.

1969: A group of women in Chicago form an underground network called Jane and provide over 10,000 safe abortions between 1969 and 1973. NARAL (National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws) is established.

1970: National Right to Life Committee is established by the Catholic Church.

1972: The Eisenstadt v. Baird Supreme Court decision establishes the right of unmarried people to use contraception. Anti-Choice senator Jesse Helms is elected to US senate.

1973: The Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision rules that America's right to privacy includes a women's right to decide without state interference whether or not to have children, at least in the first trimester.

1976: Congress adopts the first Hyde Amendment barring the use of federal Medicaid funds to provide abortions to poor women.

1977: Rosie Jiminez, a 27 year old mother on welfare, part time worker, and college student only 6 months from graduation, dies in Texas after an illegal abortion. The Hyde Amendment is revised to allow states to ban abortion funding except in cases of rape, incest, and "severe and long-lasting" damage to the woman's health.

1980: RU 486—a pill and suppository combination that causes the shedding of the uterine lining, sometimes called "the abortion pill"—is synthesized.

1988: Becky Bell, a teenager who would become a symbol for the need for the repeal of parental consent laws, dies of an illegal abortion. Operations rescue, organized by Randall Terry, stages a series of demonstrations and clinic blockades in New York City. RU 486 becomes available in France.

1989: Abortion rights supporters over 600,000 strong marched in Washington, D.C. organized by NOW.

1990: Norplant, a new contraceptive technology, is approved by the FDA.

1993: Dr. David Gunn, abortion provider, is shot to death in Pensacola, FL.

1994: Shannon Lowney and Leanne Nichols, workers at a reproductive health clinic, are shot to death in Brookline, MA. Congress passes the Freedom Access to Clinics Entrances Act (FACE), designed to prohibit clinic violence.

1998: Dr. Barnett Slepian, abortion provider, was shot to death in his home in Amherst, NY. The FDA approves the PREVEN Emergency Contraception Kit.

1999: The Danco Group, a US pharmaceutical company, announced plans to manufacture and market RU 486 by the end of the year.

2000: The FDA approves RU 486 in the United States.

Today, the Supreme Court upheld *Roe v. Wade* by a razor-thin margin. By striking down Nebraska's ban on abortion procedures, the Court recognized the nationwide campaign to promote these bans for what it is: a broad attack on a women's fundamental right to choose abortion. Today's sharply divided decision demonstrates that the right to reproductive choice is far from secure. The next President of the U.S. will select 3-4 Supreme Court Justices. Depending on whom we elect in November, the decision could be different next time.

Join a Pro-Choice Respyose to this Narrow Victory.

When: Today – Wednesday, June 28th

Where: Park Street T Stop

Time: 5-6:30 p.m.

CARWART

6/00

**HELP US REMIND VOTERS THEY MUST
VOTE PRO-CHOICE IN NOVEMBER!**

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Agenda

7/18/00

- Intros
- Debrief regarding the Supreme Court decision and rally
- Current events/ Vancouver stabbing
- Debrief the My Voice My Choice coffee night
- Update on My Voice My Choice/ start planning for October event
- discuss visibilities; possibility of reinvolvement
- Presidential race update

Abortion Access Project

NEWS

The Abortion Access Project
552 Massachusetts Avenue, Suite 215
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

tel: (617)661-1161 • fax: (617)492-1915
info@abortionaccess.org
www.abortionaccess.org

Dear Friends,

We have new staff! Tina, our former Project Coordinator, has gone on to graduate school to pursue a Master's Degree in Women's Studies. Our new Project Coordinator, Washawn, has joined the Abortion Access Project and has already developed a full schedule of activities for Abortion Access Action Month. Welcome, Washawn! We also say goodbye and thank you to Maile and Rachel, our invaluable summer interns who helped with AAAM and the Hospital Project.

Congratulations to Kathy, our Health Professions Coordinator, who has received a faculty appointment at the MGH-Institute for Health Professions. Kathy will continue her work at AAP while teaching women's health students at MGH.

Please visit our newly designed website - www.abortionaccess.org

Abortion Access Action Month

Throughout the month of October, we will be celebrating the 6th annual Abortion Access Action Month. Watch for our public awareness ads, *Real Women, Real Choices*, on the T throughout October. Events and activities will emphasize the crucial need for all women to have access to comprehensive reproductive health care. Activities already planned include:

- October 1: **Protest at the "Respect Life Walk" on the Boston Common.** The protest will focus on women who have been denied the right to choose because of anti-abortion policies and violence. Join us at 1:30 PM at the corner of Beacon St. and Charles St., in front of Starbucks. Bring your signs, banners and T-shirts.
- October 4: **Abortion Access Project Volunteer Orientation.** Come be part of an exciting new group of volunteers and learn how you can be involved in the reproductive rights movement.
- October 14: **4th Annual Health Profession Students for Choice Conference**
- October 23: **My Voice/My Choice Reproductive Rights Oral History Project Volunteer Orientation**, sponsored by Greater Boston NOW.
- October 25: **National Young Women's Day of Action**

More events will be added! Check out our website, www.abortionaccess.org, for an updated listing of events. To get involved, become a co-sponsor, or schedule a speaker for your group, please call Washawn at the office.

Please make a note of our new email addresses:

Susan (Director) – sy@abortionaccess.org

Washawn (Project Coordinator) – wt@abortionaccess.org

Kathy (Health Professions Coordinator) – ks@abortionaccess.org

Jamie (Education and Outreach Coordinator) – jr@abortionaccess.org

Nancy (NEMTC Coordinator) – nafoss@abortionaccess.org

Buffer Zone Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Buffer Zone law?

The buffer zone law creates "bubble zones" -- personal safety zones around patients and staff entering reproductive health clinics. The Massachusetts buffer zone law forbids knowingly approaching another person or occupied motor vehicle for the purpose of leafleting, displaying a sign, protesting, educating or counseling. A protestor may not enter a 6-foot radius of that person or vehicle unless the person consents to the approach. This law applies within an 18-foot radius of the entrances and driveways of all the reproductive health facilities in the state. The law also provides for six-foot wide corridor from the doorway to the street, in which the bubble zones apply.

Does the buffer zone apply to all clinics?

The buffer zone law applies to reproductive health care facilities in Massachusetts, which are defined in the bill as "a place, other than within a hospital, where abortions are offered or performed."

What types of activities are prohibited by the buffer zone?

The law states that no person shall knowingly approach another person or occupied motor vehicle, unless the person consents, in order to pass a leaflet, display a sign, or protest, educate or counsel the other person.

If a patient comes within six feet of a protestor, does the protestor have to move?

The protestor has to move if s/he approaches the patient in any way, including reaching out to hand a leaflet, or engage in counseling or education activities. The law prevents a protestor from approaching within six feet of someone. If the protestor is already standing there, and is not in any way approaching the person, the protestor does not have to move. If s/he approaches the patient in any way, then s/he would have to move.

Will the buffer zone be clearly marked?

Yes. The law requires that the eighteen-foot radius and the six-foot corridor be clearly marked. The law also requires that the provisions of this law be posted.

Does the buffer zone law apply to everyone?

The buffer zone law prevents anyone from approaching another person within the buffer zone, except:

- a. people entering or leaving the clinic;
- b. employees or agents of the clinic acting within the scope of their employment

ENACTED

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand.

Chapter 217

AN ACT RELATIVE TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE FACILITIES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. The purpose of this act is to:-

- (a) increase the public safety in and around reproductive health care facilities;
- (b) maintain the flow of traffic and prevent congestion around reproductive health care facilities;
- (c) enact reasonable time, place and manner restrictions to reconcile and protect both the first amendment rights of persons to express their views, assemble and pray near reproductive health care facilities and the rights of persons seeking access to such facilities to be free from hindrance, harassment, intimidation and harm; and
- (d) create an environment in and around reproductive health care facilities which is conducive to safe and effective medical services, including surgical procedures, for patients.

SECTION 2. Chapter 266 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 120E the following section:

Section 120 1/2. (a) For the purposes of this section, "reproductive health care facility" means a place, other than within a hospital, where abortions are offered or performed.

(b) No person shall knowingly approach another person or occupied motor vehicle within six feet of such person or vehicle, unless such other person or occupant of the vehicle consents, for the purpose of passing a leaflet or handbill to, displaying a sign to, or engaging in oral protest, education or counseling with such other person in the public way or sidewalk area within a radius of 18 feet from any entrance door or driveway to a reproductive health care facility or within the area within a rectangle not greater than six feet in width created by extending the outside boundaries of any entrance door or driveway to a reproductive health care facility at a right angle and in straight lines to the point where such lines intersect the sideline of the street in front of such entrance door or driveway. This subsection shall not apply to the following:-

- (1) persons entering or leaving such facility;
- (2) employees or agents of such facility acting within the scope of their employment;
- (3) law enforcement, ambulance, firefighting, construction, utilities, public works and other municipal agents acting within the scope of their employment; and



Join  for
another great night of
ART & ACTIVISM!

**The VAGINA MONOLOGUES
are coming to Boston!**

A Benefit To
Stop Violence Against Women

*includes a post-performance party with
playwright and performer Eve Ensler*

March 20, 2001 at the Wilbur Theater

Tickets start at \$100

For information or tickets,
call 617-797-VDAY or email
Massnow@hotmail.com

GET INVOLVED!

Sign onto our **email alert system**, join a **TASK FORCE**, raise your voice, become a **NOW member & mobilize for women's rights**.

February 8

Civil Rights Task Force

Help plan the 2001 Northeast Lesbian Rights and Allies Summit! (cr_tf@hotmail.com)

February 10

V Day 2001

Join the Violence Against Women Task Force for a trip to New York City for the V-Day 2001 gathering. (vawtf@hotmail.com)

February 12

Legislative Committee

Help set NOW's priority bills and strategy for the 2001 legislative session. (massnow@hotmail.com)

February 15

Young Feminist Task Force

Prepare educational workshops for women's history month & promote love your body day. (yftf@hotmail.com)

February 15

Economic Justice Committee

Strategize for comparable worth, the self-sufficiency standard, affirmative action and more. (irogers@gis.net)

February 26

Repro Rights Task Force

Help plan the National Day of Appreciation for Abortion Providers and develop plans to take My Voice/My Choice on the road. (trtf@hotmail.com)

March 20

Vagina Monologues Boston!

Featuring playwright Eve Ensler. Benefit tickets at \$100 and up (includes one ticket to the show and admission to post-show party.) Wilbur Theater, Boston. Call for reservations.

All task force meetings begin at 7pm at the NOW office, located at 214 Harvard Ave.; take the Green line B train to the corner of Harvard and Commonwealth Avenues. Parking is also available.

For more information on NOW's activities check out our website at www.bostonnow.org or call us at (617)232-1017.

MY VOICE MY CHOICE



**January 26 and 27, 2001
Spontaneous Celebrations
Jamaica Plain, MA**

**A project of Greater Boston NOW
sponsored by the
Massachusetts NOW Foundation**

Friends,

we mark the 28th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion. It also marks the beginning of a new U.S. President whose commitment to turning back the clock on women's reproductive rights found expression in anti-choice policies on his first working day in office. The contrast reminds us of both how far we have come and how much ongoing work remains to ensure that all women and girls have an unrestricted right to make their own reproductive choices.

Despite 33 years of legal access to contraceptives and 28 years of legal access to abortion, a woman's right to choose and to control her body remains under constant attack. In the face of intimidation, threats, and deadly violence from anti-choice zealots, the number of providers has dwindled significantly: *there are currently no local abortion providers for women in 86% of all states in the United States.*

Choice politicians create legal obstacles for poor women and young women, and jeopardize the health of all women faced with a decision regarding a late-term abortion. Yet on the flip side, welfare "reformers" ignore the needs of poor women who have babies with limited resources to care for them. Through both his legislative agenda and his notoriously anti-choice cabinet appointments, most notably Ashcroft and Thompson, President George W. Bush poses a grave threat to the reproductive rights of all women, not only here in the United States but also around the world.

Our organization stands ready to lead the fight to protect a woman's right to choose through our continued lobbying, grassroots activism and efforts to elect pro-choice candidates. Tonight's debut of *My Voice/My Choice* highlights our determination to break the silence surrounding reproductive choices and to galvanize public support of a woman's right to choose.

On behalf of the activists, volunteers, and board of directors of Greater Boston NOW, thank you for joining us for *My Voice/My Choice*. To the people who shared their stories and talents to make this performance possible, we cannot thank you enough. And to each of you, thank you for your role in joining the continuing struggle for safe, legal and affordable reproductive choice.

For equality and justice,
Greater Boston NOW

My Voice/My Choice

*A performance by Greater Boston NOW
Created, written, performed and directed
by a dedicated crew of volunteers*

Welcome..... Kari Dana Whitney
Evelyn..... Gini Bostwick
Maureen..... Janet Raskin
Deborah..... Renee C. Farster
Birthcontrollers Adrienne Rose Beloin

Video montage

Katy Sarah Davis
Florence..... Catherine Bell
Skye Denise Nichols
Colors All

Director/producer
Sunny Stich

Video production
Desdemona Burgin

Stage production
*Gail Perryman, Manager
Alicia Cardozo, Props*

Light and Sound
*Clint Kaster, Amy Lee
& George Bistransin*

Supporting actors
*Cortney Harding,
Sunny Stich & Kari Whitney*

Costume & Makeup
*Dana Brinson
& Renee Farster*

*The program contains highly-charged and emotional content.
Please feel free to step outside at any point. If you would like to
talk with anyone for support, please ask one of the volunteers to
assist you.*

MY VOICE/MY CHOICE:

An Oral History of Reproductive Rights Project

An 18 year old woman reflects on the terror of terminating her pregnancy in the presence of an armed security guard while John Salvi went on his murderous rampage at a nearby clinic in 1994. An 87 year-old woman recalls the trauma of obtaining an abortion on an unsanitary kitchen table. Other stories reveal the shame and indignity of women needing their husband's or parent's permission to get birth control, having too many children too quickly, and being blindfolded and led away to a back alley in a desperate attempt to regain control of their lives.

Tonight's performance of *My Voice/My Choice* is based on these real life stories and choices women have had to make about their bodies and their lives. Over the past two years, Greater Boston NOW has begun collecting stories from women of all ages, social classes, and races. The idea for *My Voice/My Choice* grew out a discussion between members of Greater Boston NOW and the National Council of Jewish Women in Sharon, Massachusetts. As the women began to share their personal stories with us, it was difficult for anyone listening to remain detached. In these women, we saw someone we knew and could imagine the fright and frustration, the resolve and commitment we might feel if faced with these circumstances.

Every woman has a reproductive history – a series of changes, events, and decisions that fundamentally impact all aspects of her life and health. But these stories remain unheard, taboo, and shrouded by misinformation. Anti-choice advocates use this pervasive silence to threaten every woman's freedom to choose by obscuring the realities of reproductive health needs. And the taboo on "women's problems" prevents truly open dialogue and education about the reproductive and sexual health needs of our society.

While current statistics on the availability of abortion services are troubling and the frequency of clinic violence is alarming, the public often guards itself by believing that these realities will not affect them directly. We hope these stories will inspire women and men of all generations and backgrounds to work to keep abortion safe and legal. We also hope that women will continue to come forth and speak out, to help us break down the wall of silence that surrounds abortion, contraception, adoption and other reproductive choices.

Special Thanks

We want to thank all the individuals and businesses who have helped with the oral history project and this weekend's performance.

TC...the brave women who shared their stories with us

TC...the volunteers, interns and activists who conducted the oral histories, transcribed tapes, recruited performers and added their voices

TC...Marilyn Halter, Professor of American Studies at Boston University for training us on taking oral histories

TC... the Footlight Club for their technical assistance. (Be sure to see the musical BIG, playing at Eliot Hall, Eliot Street, Jamaica Plain, opening February 2 for three weekends. For more information see www.footlight.org or call 617-524-3200.)

TC...Mike Dellisanti for providing the technical sound equipment.

TC... the following restaurants and bakeries for their donations for our opening night reception:

Bella Luna	Caffe Cantata	Center Street Café City
Feed	Costello's Bistro	J. P. Licks
	Trader Joe's	

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BEHIND THE SCENES...

Greater Boston NOW is blessed to have a dedicated crew of volunteers who have donated time and talent to this performance.

Director:

Sunny Stich considers herself lucky to have been involved with Greater Boston NOW and the amazing volunteers of My Voice/My Choice project and the amazing volunteers of Greater Boston NOW. A native of Pakistan, where women's rights are constantly in jeopardy, Sunny has made it her life's mission to improve the position of women in any society. She constantly looks to her husband Ben and cats Obi and Leo for inspiration, laughter and support.

Performers:

Atherine Bell was privileged to staff Greater Boston NOW when My Voice/My Choice was just getting started. In her current position with the Jewish Community Relations Council, she engages Boston-area teen-agers in social justice work. In her spare time, she looks for ways to add fuel to the fire.

Trienne Rose Beloin appears this weekend in her debut performance! She works as NOW's Office Manager, where she oversees our strong internship program, and is a waitress in Harvard Square. "This project is as important to me as all the women in my life; and my performance is dedicated to them."

Gini Bostwick is presently an adult education teacher with the Boston Community Centers and actively involved in a variety of feminist activities. Her theater background includes directing and performing in a Community Theater in the Poconos. Along with other teachers, Gini formed the Community Theater group in Pennsylvania.

Trish Davis, narrowly escaping a southern drawl, was born and raised in Kentucky. After graduating from IU, she moved to Boston on a whim. She currently spends her days prostrate to corporate America while spending her nights trying to make the world a better place, one burned bra at a time.

Dee C. Farster spends her days as the Managing Director of the Theater Offensive. She directed Philadelphia productions of "Agnes of God" and "Extremities". She recently appeared in a staged reading of "Queer Theory!" and performs her poetry about town. She has been featured at "A Night of Women's Poets" and was runner-up in the Amazon Super Show.

Martine Harding is a junior at Wellesley College majoring in Political Science and Women's Studies. She has been the co-chair of Greater Boston NOW Reproductive Rights Task Force for the last two years and helped found ACT OUT: Radical Youngsters for Social Justice.

Janise Nichols graduated from Syracuse University in May 1999. She has been an activist since she was ten and is currently working as an administrative assistant at a family-owned business.

Janet Raskin, a Miami native, has a dual career as an actor and educational writer. She is currently in the Micetro improv troupe at ImprovBoston and will appear in "Manifest" at Theater Coop later this spring.

Kari Dana Whitney, a radical feminist, is a graduating senior at Wheelock College with a double major in Women's Studies and Human Development. For the six months she interned with NOW on My Voice/My Choice. She encourages women of all ages and backgrounds to share their stories with each other.

Writers:

Davina Cohen has worked as a journalist, performer, critic, and researcher in New York, London, and Johannesburg. She studies political theory at Columbia University in New York. Forthcoming plans include a multimedia journalism project on access to transport.

Jason Grote has enjoyed numerous productions of his work throughout the US, including Pipe Bomb Sonata: The 1988 Tompkins Square Park Riot, which debuted at the NY Fringe Festival and street theater with Reverend Bill. He also wrote short humor pieces for McSweeney's Internet Tendency.

Melissa Goldstein has been out of college for a couple of years, doing political work and temping. Most recently, she has temped as a corporate whore receptionist in order to support her bad habits like writing and progressive politics.

Florence Ann Marlowe, a writer and actress, living in New Jersey, soon to move to Los Angeles. Graduated from Montclair State University with a BFA in acting in 1995 and is presently a free lance writer and hopeful actress.

Vicky Steinberg is a senior English major at Harvard. She is the co-chair of the Greater Boston NOW Reproductive Rights Task Force. In addition, she has served as the president of Harvard Students for Choice and is a founding member of WIN, an umbrella group of Harvard women's organizations.

Technical

Clint Kaster is the proprietor of Smart Tech AV, an audio visual services provider based out of Portland, Oregon. He has done sound for clients ranging from punk bands to the CFO of Cisco Systems.

Gail Perrymann studied theatre at UCLA and has worked on a number of community theatre projects. She hopes that hearing women voice their truths about reproductive choice will set others free to do the same.

Dana Brinson is a polycareered 1999 West Virginia University graduate. She aspires to become a great feminist writer and rid the planet of patriarchal pollution. In order to achieve that goal, she participates in volunteer opportunities that allow her to nip at the heels of the establishment and spend time with awesome feminists.

Massachusetts National Organization for Women Foundation

214 Harvard Avenue • Boston, MA 02134 • (617) 232-4764 • FAX: (617) 232-4162

May 5, 2001

*Jonathan -
you're the best -
as usual. Thanks
for your ongoing
support.
-naomi*

Jonathan McDowell
23 Elm St., #305
Somerville, MA 02143

Dear Jonathan:

On behalf of the Massachusetts NOW Foundation, we want to thank you for your generous gifts totaling \$200.00* dated 3/9/2001 and 3/20/2001 which helped make our benefit in conjunction with The Vagina Monologues a great success. Donations such as yours ensure our ability to continue our efforts toward ending violence against women and promoting women's equality.

We welcome your active participation as well as your financial support. As you know, NOW's interests are broad and our resources stretched. The Massachusetts NOW Foundation provides a vehicle to bring resources to our educational and policy work as well as capacity building activities such as leadership development, activist training and communications. We hope you will share your ideas with us about programming, priorities and, of course, policy.

Thank you again for your generosity and for believing in NOW.

For women's rights and equality,

Linda Rogers

Linda Rogers
Treasurer

Naomi Sweitzer

Naomi Sweitzer
Vice President, Fundraising
Event Coordinator

* This contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law, except for the value of goods or services of \$100 which were provided to you in return for this donation.

2001 B

Planned Parenthood League
Of Massachusetts

CELEBRATES
YOU

Our Volunteers

Please join us as we celebrate
your contributions and dedication

The Atrium at
1055 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston
Thursday, April 5, 2001
from 6 o'clock until 8 o'clock PM

Remarks by Dianne Luby
President and C.E.O.

Refreshments and Hors d'oeuvres
will be served

Please respond by March 28
617-616-1660 ext. 1545

BEWARE OF

"Pro-life" LIES:

Operation Rescue's pictures of fetuses are

misrepresentations – some photos are FRAUDS

(see http://www.lifeandlibertyforwomen.org/truth_about_photos.html)

BEWARE. "Operation Rescue" harasses and intimidates patients using Planned Parenthood's services.

BEWARE. "Operation Rescue" presents false and unscientific information about healthcare, embryos, and the effects of abortion on women. "Crisis pregnancy clinics" function mainly to stall women from having abortions by inundating them with propaganda – not to meet their health needs.

Can an embryo or fetus feel pain?

The embryo or fetus cannot perceive pain in the nearly 99 percent of all abortions that occur before the 20th week of pregnancy. It is even possible that a fetus is unable to perceive pain at any time during pregnancy. If the ability to feel pain does develop before consciousness, it likely occurs only after the 28th week of pregnancy, when abortion is performed only for urgent medical reasons.

How do women feel after an abortion?

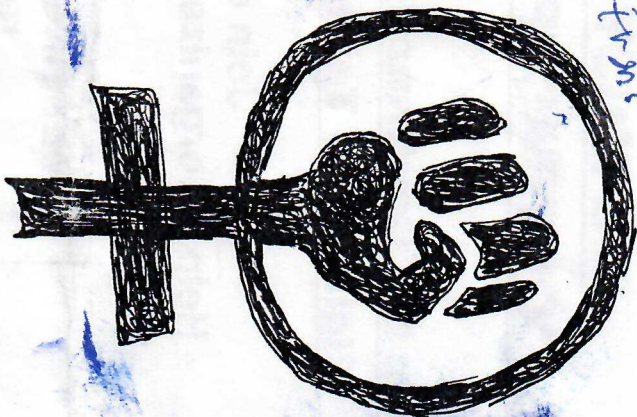
"Operation Rescue" claims that abortion often causes long-lasting emotional problems, or "post-abortion syndrome." There is no scientific proof for these claims. Most women feel relief! Some women feel anger, regret, guilt, or sadness for a little while.

855

-PDR shreds hearts for pen

- it's public school
even on RTT block, must share
the pen!
Bright dis-emp of other
study with 5m on by 1st one.

Cap Fr m's

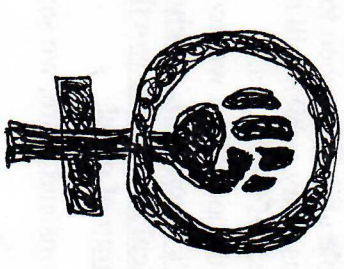


Wm. 2075
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LABOR DONATED

**You are about
to walk by
"Operation Rescue"**

**-- or as we
call them,
"Operation
Oppress-You"**



Coalition to Defend
Reproductive Rights

The decision to plan our families and pregnancies belongs to us women and the loved ones we choose to share this responsibility with. Our right to control our own bodies and our right to do so privately is guaranteed under Roe vs. Wade, the Supreme Court decision that made abortion legal nationwide. Roe vs. Wade has been under vicious attack for years by the courts and Congress.

Only 13% of US counties have safe abortion providers. Anti-abortion groups constantly threaten these clinics. In Allston, Planned Parenthood, which offers counseling on all matters relating to reproductive rights, is picketed daily by "Operation Rescue." "OR" yells and insults women going into clinics, calling them murderers. "OR" blocks their path and physically harasses them. "OR" videotapes them as they walk in - all to shame and intimidate!

Who is "Operation Rescue"?

"Operation Rescue", or as we call them "Operation Oppress-You," tries to prevent women from receiving medical services, threatens the safety of clinic staffs and assaults patients and pro-choice demonstrators.

"OR" was founded by Randall Terry. Terry is a protégé of David Duke, former

clinic Action P Saturday Nov. 12, 8:30 to 11:30 am
1055 Commonwealth Ave. (Planned Parenthood) (near Resent St. T-Stop)

head of the Louisiana KKK. Terry has stated publicly:

"I don't think Christians should use birth control. You consummate your marriage as often as you like - and if you have babies, you have babies."

"I want you to let a wave of hatred wash over you. Yes, hate is good... Our goal is a Christian nation. We have a biblical duty, we are called by God to conquer this country... We don't want pluralism."

(Fort Wayne News Sentinel, 8/16/93)

"OR" does not confine itself to terrorizing clinics. Many doctors no longer perform abortions due to "OR's" activities which include picketing physicians homes, vandalizing their offices, and murder.

WE ARE ORGANIZING

CLINIC DEFENSES

TO STOP THE

WOMEN-BLAMING ENVIRONMENT

"OPERATION OPPRESS-YOU"

CREATES OUTSIDE

PLANNED PARENTHOOD IN ALLSTON!

NO MORE HUMILIATION

& INTIMIDATION!

Why Clinic Action?

Historically, clinic defenses have successfully caused right-wing demonstrators to retreat, and cease their tactics.

A women's right to choose should not be a humiliating experience! We need to defend our health care rights by making sure women can go into clinics safely without shame, isolation, or intimidation.

While legislative change at the state and federal levels is crucial, we also believe in the need for direct action to reclaim public space, and to counter the women-blaming climate and perceptions in our neighborhoods and communities. By reviving clinic defenses - absent from Boston on a large scale for years - we hope to help increase grassroots activism for women's and reproductive rights at our work and different communities.

Because:

- Birth control fails
- 1 in 4 women is raped, let alone sexually coerced; young women report that men resist wearing condoms, donning them without a reminder just 10% of the time
- There is only 1 Planned Parenthood in Boston, providing healthcare options for low-income women

F we will hold pro choice signs + banners to counter anti-abortion pictures, cameras + harassment.

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

Because . . .

- We *don't* have good, well-paying jobs
- We *don't* have universal healthcare
- Housing is *not* affordable
- Quality public childcare for all is *not* a reality

1 in 4 women are raped, let alone sexually coerced — rape is a crime largely perpetrated against the *young*

Unplanned pregnancies are often not the result of *our* “irresponsibility;” young women report that men resist wearing condoms, using them without a “reminder” just 10% of the time

People, including teens, will have sex — and birth control fails; 40% of 14-year-old girls will become pregnant before they turn 20

Giving birth to and raising a child is a **tremendous, long-lasting and even lifelong responsibility**, spiritually as well as economically. Women and teens *must* be able to decide when to take on this responsibility, which will affect every aspect of their lives.

Every child should be a wanted child
A woman's emotional, psychological, and physical health are worth more than a clump of cells!

or these reasons and more, we say,

**NO TO CRIMINALIZING
ABORTION!**

There is only 1 Planned Parenthood in Boston, providing reproductive healthcare options for low-income women!

WE MUST DEFEND ACCESS

TO CONTRACEPTION — AND ABORTION!

**Stop the Confirmation of Judge Alito! Oppose the
Right-Wing Takeover of the Supreme Court!**

Join our clinic actions!
Help us organize around reproductive justice.

**MEETING to discuss organizing for
reproductive justice:
7pm - Thursday, Nov. 17
45 Mt. Auburn St.
(near Harvard T-stop)**

The Coalition to Defend Reproductive Rights
Questions? daplanning@lists.riseup.net or 617-566-2861

My labor donated my

TO ARE WE?
include feminists, women who
had abortions (or haven't), women
use birth control (or don't), users
Planned Parenthood's services - but
of all, we are community
concerned about the lack of
to reproductive healthcare.
have organized and formed a
to defend and extend our
reproductive rights.

CDRR...
Coalition to Defend
Reproductive Rights

need your help!

Donate/raise money

Do Research

Clinic Actions & Rallies

Educational events

Speakouts & Forums

NIC ACTION

FRIDAY, Nov. 12 - 8:30 to 11:30 am

1 Farwell Street, 1055 Commonwealth Ave.

CONTACT US AT: (Near Pleasant St.

aplanning@lists.riseup.net> T-Stop)

7-566-2861

EETING ARE USUALLY

ELD THURSDAYS, 7 pm

ker Commons in the basement of
nders Theater, Harvard University

id it at: map.Harvard.edu)

**NO TO THE RIGHT WING
TAKEOVER OF THE SUPREME
COURT!
WELFARE, CHILDCARE, UNIVERSAL
HEALTHCARE - FREE CONTRACEPTION!
DEFEND ABORTION ACCESS! REINSTATE FEDERAL FUNDING**

**DEFEND
REPRODUCTIVE
RIGHTS!**

**STOP THE HARRASSMENT
AT OUR CLINICS!**

**Emergency
Contraception
on Demand!**

**Our Rights to Abortion and
Reproductive Healthcare
Are Under Attack!**

**TIME TO
SPEAK OUT AND
FIGHT BACK!**



**Coalition to Defend
Reproductive Rights**