

Lynsey Nielsen

Stephanie Maenhardt

English 1010

21 November 2011

Abortion: Good or Bad

History of Abortion

Abortions have been performed for thousands of years here in the United States, but it wasn't until 1973 that they became legal in the *Roe vs. Wade* case. Prior to this many “back alley” abortions were done. These were scary times that resulted in many deaths. These terrible days may be returning sooner than we think.

Feldt and Fraser state that, “On November 5, 2003, President George W. Bush took a giant step toward fulfilling his promise to restrict abortion. He signed a criminal ban on abortion procedures, the deceptively named “Partial Birth Abortion Act.” Surrounded by a phalanx of gray-haired, self-congratulatory white men---and no women!---he signed away a great portion of women's power over their reproductive lives”(2). The National Abortion Federation fought against this ban and won the lawsuit in 2004. Feldt explains that many believe that this act was aiming towards actually making abortions completely illegal (3).

Should women have better access to clinics?

Here is a summary of an incident reported by Mensah M. Dean writer for the Philadelphia

Inquirer posted on The Boston Herald website, 2 women were charged for working in an abortion clinic as unlicensed workers. During their time working there they killed babies by severing their spinal cords with scissors. These women were also charged with third degree murder of a woman receiving an abortion. If there was better access to good abortion clinics then things like this would not happen. Women would not feel like there was no other option but to go to a cheap, shady clinic. “Abortions are very common. In fact, more than 1 out of 3 women in the U.S. have an abortion by the time they are 45 years old.”(<http://www.plannedparenthood.org/health-topics/abortion-4260.asp>). This means that 1 in 3 women need a safe place to go where they don't have to worry if they will live or not. So even though abortions are legal now many women do not get a choice because of the lack of accessible clinics.

Pros of Abortion

Pro-Choice means, “being in favor of allowing women to make up their own mind about whether or not to have a child. It means that a woman should have this right before and after she is pregnant” (Sanger, 5). Melody Rose states that the typical woman who has had an abortion is between the ages of twenty to thirty, has had a previous child, is economically disadvantaged, and Christian, among other characteristics (Rose, 2006). Many women can barely afford to have an abortion so why should they be forced to have a child. That child will grow up in a struggling home which is not fair to the mother or child.

“Many supporters of abortion rights concede that a fertilized human egg is a potential individual, but they insist that it is not yet a person. Although a zygote is alive and belongs to the species *homo sapiens*, they maintain, it is unable to live outside of the womb and should not be seen as an entity that is separate from the mother’s body” (Williams, 13). Others believe “If there is an uncertainty about when human life begins, the benefit of the doubt should go to preserving life”

(Alcorn, Contents). There's no way that people will agree on one side but I do agree with the supporters of abortion rights, it is a zygote and cannot live without the mother. Many believe that abortion is murder, but what if it came down to life or death of a woman? Would they let the mother die to save the baby? If it was them in that situation I'm sure they would want the choice. Another situation is rape, if a woman is raped why should they have to carry a child from a rapist. That's not fair to that woman. Woman need the choice.

Cons of Abortion

The number one con of abortion is that in most cases it could have been prevented. Women could have been responsible in using condoms or birth control. Abortion is very straining on a woman mentally and physically. Woman can severely suffer from depression due to the abortion. Some women may regret the decision later in life and feel that having an abortion made her a bad person. Abortion can cause infertility and other health problems. Many people feel that abortion is taking away the rights of a human being and that abortion is murder.

In conclusion women should have access to safe abortions and clinics. Most abortions are done in the first trimester before a fetus can survive on it's own. In the cases of death to the mother, or rape, abortion is effective. Abortions can be very harmful to a woman mentally and physically. Most abortions could have been prevented with forms of birth control. I personally find it very important for woman to have the right to choose. I think it's something worth fighting for and should never be taken away.

Works Cited

Alcorn, Randy C.. *ProLife Answers to ProChoice Arguments*. Portland, Oregon: Multnomah Publishers,

2000. Print

Almond, Lucinda. *The Abortion Controversy*. Detroit, Greenhaven Press, 2007. Print

Dean, Mensah M.. "Two plead guilty in deaths at Philadelphia abortion clinic." Boston Herald News, 28 Oct 2011. Web. 21 Nov 2011.

Feldt, Gloria, and Fraser, Laura. *The war on choice: the right-wing attack on women's rights and how to fight back*. New York: Random House Digital, Inc., 2004. Print

"Methods of Abortion." *Sexual & Reproductive Health - Sex Education - Planned Parenthood*. 2011. Web. 21 Nov. 2011. <<http://www.plannedparenthood.org/health-topics/abortion-4260.asp>>.

Rose, Melody. *Safe, legal, and unavailable?: abortion politics in the United States*. Washington DC: CQ Press, 2007. Print.

Sanger, Margaret. *The Pivot of Civilization in Historical Perspective: The Birth Control Classic*. Seattle: Inkling, 2008. Print.

Williams, Mary E.. *Abortion: Opposing viewpoints*. San Diego, California: Greenhaven Press, 2002. Print.