

PRO-LIFE

Why the Pro-Life movement? History of contraception, abortion, and Roe V Wade

There's been a shift in law and attitude. Once upon a time, life in the womb was most sacred. Contraception was illegal. Abortion was a crime. Protecting the life of the unborn was paramount – a fetus was recognized as a human being with rights and opportunity to prosper. The family took center stage. In today's altered society our controlled narrative and laws couldn't care less about the unborn, self-interest is paramount, gender has been [deconstructed](#) and marriage [re-defined](#), all in the name of equal rights.

[Anthony Comstock](#), a devout Christian from New York City, observed his city teeming with prostitution and women being exploited. He believed contraception was lewd, immoral, and promoted promiscuity. He went to Washington, DC to do something about this. The Comstock Act passed in 1873. Known as the [Anti-Obscenity Law](#), which prohibited the sale and possession of birth control. Information promoting birth control was deemed "Articles of immoral use". Many states passed laws prohibiting the sale of contraceptives.

Back in 1927, conception determined when human life began. The [American Medical Association](#) urged state legislatures to pass laws to protect the unborn. Every state passed laws that made abortion a serious crime. From 1880 to 1930 there was a transition period to a new sexual order which would undermine the traditional family and ultimately lead to the sexual revolution in the 1960's, setting the course for a new social order.

Margaret Sanger was a birth control advocate who challenged the law in 1916 when she opened the first birth control clinic in NYC. Following her arrest, the [1918 Crane decision](#) allowed women to use birth control for therapeutic



purposes. In 1920, The American Birth Control League (later to become known as Planned Parenthood) was founded. [By 1936 the US Court of Appeals decision](#) permitted doctors to distribute contraceptives across state lines, giving legitimacy to the birth control industry. This changed the public attitude on birth control. Once opposed, Christian Churches warmed to morally accepting birth control, though the Catholic Church remained opposed. [Birth rates](#) dropped significantly.

At first, falling birth rates didn't cause alarm. The population control movement was in full swing against a looming threat of third-world, poor, communist countries having too many children – there was concern that a world-wide famine was imminent, rising taxes would increase the spread of communism. The solution: Abortion.

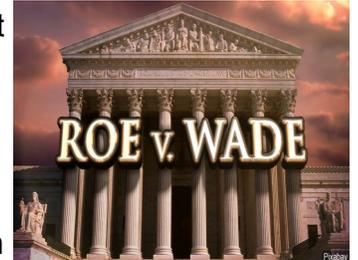
In 1959, the [America Law](#) Institute proposed a model penal code for state abortion laws. This code advocated legalizing abortions in limited circumstances, to include the mental & physical health of the mother, rape and incest, and fetal deformity. Colorado was the first state to pass an abortion law permitting abortion under these limited circumstances. California, Oregon, and North Carolina followed suit. As more states embraced pro-abortion laws, the National Right to Life was founded in 1968, in an effort to organize, communicate, and coordinate what was going on in various states across the country.

By the early 1970's, four states had laws making abortion on demand legal; one state permitted abortion for rape or incest; a total of 31 states had very limited laws permitting abortion only to save a mother's life. Then the federal government stepped in. Contrary to what people think, Roe V. Wade is not a law passed by Congress January 22, 1973. It was a vote by 7 (a full court has 9) Supreme Court Justices. The US Supreme Court were determined that all state laws protecting the unborn null and void. Roe v. Wade ruled that "legal personhood does not exist prenatally".

This decision made abortion legal in all 50 states for the full term of pregnancy. To this day, this is, the most controversial Supreme Court Decision.

Decades after the unique decision, no other decision continues to cause such large and sustainable outcry. Deemed the “engine of controversy” it has become the symbol of judicial over reach causing much upheaval. Every year, since the decision of Roe v. Wade, Maine Right to Life holds a rally and solemn memorial - Hands Around the Capital event, to remember the innocent lives lost caused by this decision.

[Roe v. Wade](#) is actually two cases – Roe v. Wade – Texas, and Doe V. Bolton – Georgia. The court read both together. Though Doe is rarely spoken about, in its near 40 year history, it is Doe that has the greatest impact on abortion policy. Doe provides what is called the “[health exception](#)” for an abortion after a fetus becomes viable. The “health exception” addresses the physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and age of the mother, thus providing legal justification to have an abortion throughout the entire gestational pregnancy. The Doe decision distinguishes the US as one of the most liberal democracies in the world. Only [seven countries](#) allow abortion after 20 weeks. The US is one of four nations (Canada, China, and North Korea) that allow abortion for any reason after fetal viability.



Last September, at a live national town hall debate at the National Constitutional Center in Philadelphia, “[Should Roe V. Wade be overturned](#)” was addressed. Kathryn Kolbert – the pro-abortion lawyer who argued the 1992 supreme court case Planned Parenthood V. Casey, (the court refused to overturn Roe), stated: “This court is prepared to overturn Roe and return the matter to the states.” A law professor on the panel nodded and added: “All of us assume the Court will overturn Roe.”

For the past 25 years, the hearts and minds of Americans favor life over abortion. This is demonstrated in the [decline in abortions](#) throughout the US. The percentage of women having abortions today has dropped to 1972 levels (the year before the Roe V. Wade decision). **According to the CDC, abortion rates are down in both pro-life and pro-abortion states by upwards of 30%.** Of Americans who identify as being pro-choice - two thirds oppose late term abortion. Seventy-nine percent of Americans oppose late term abortions; and 82% of Americans oppose denying care to a viable child after birth.

A [Gallup poll](#) issued January 22nd, 2020, *Dissatisfied with US abortion laws at a new high*, reveals a 7% increase from a year ago. Today, 58% of Americans are not happy with our nation’s abortion laws and believe they should be stricter. This is a new high for Gallup’s trend. The mainstream media controls a narrative which is not aligned with the thoughts of our nation. The powers that be portray Pro-Lifer’s as predominately white religious males who know nothing about the woman’s body – the true Pro-Life movement is a very [diverse group](#) that includes [Pro-Life Democrats](#) (who were told there was no place for them in the party), [blacks and browns](#), atheists, [Jews](#), [secular](#), [gays and lesbians](#).

Maine Right to Life believes that **people deserve to know the truth. Knowledge is power.** Please share these facts, and let everyone know, Pro-Life has a place for everyone that values human life from womb to tomb.