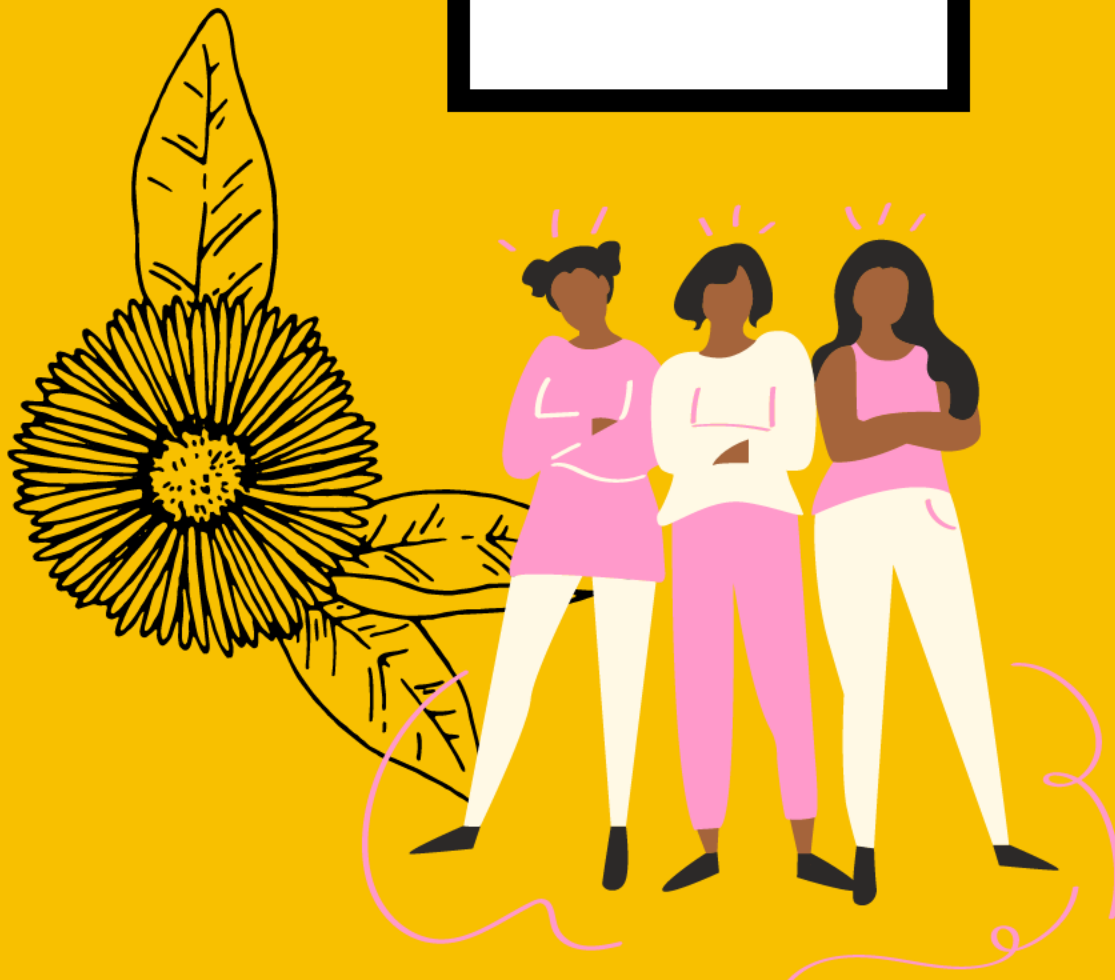
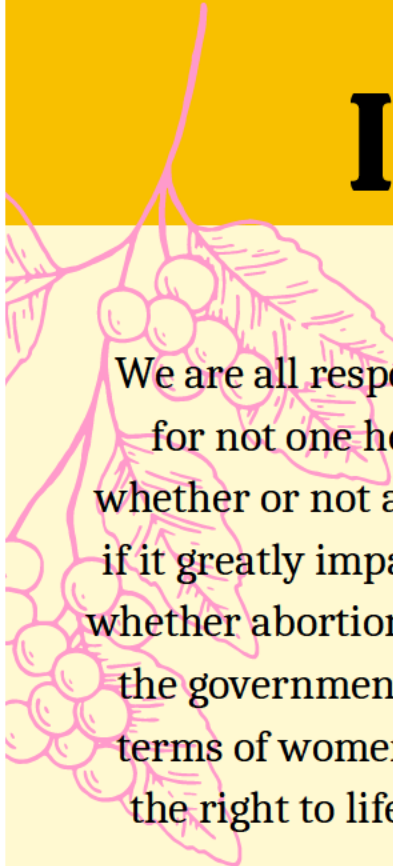


# Women's Reproductive Rights and Abortion

Who gets the right to  
choose?



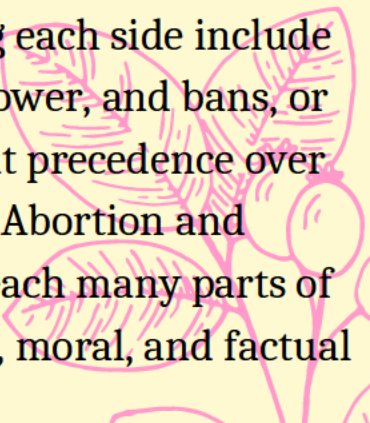
# Introduction



We are all responsible for our autonomy until our bodies become hosts for not one heart but two. This is one of many societal debates over whether or not a single person should control the future of another, even if it greatly impacts their own life. Specifically, the decision consisting of whether abortion should be left in the hands of the pregnant woman, or if the government has the right to control the legality of a fatal action. In terms of women's reproductive rights, the right to have an abortion, or the right to life is the defining components of the two divisions of our nation's sides: pro-choice and pro-life.



The Pro-Choice Movement displays the idea of allowing women to choose individually whether or not they choose to give birth, put the baby up for adoption, or have an abortion; contrastingly, The Pro-Life Movement supports the idea of carrying a baby full term to preserve their future. On a large scale, this ongoing issue affects our nation in social, cultural, political, economic, and public health aspects, as well as having an impact on our communities in Kentucky. Motivations driving each side include women's equality, religious components, legislative power, and bans, or use of government money, all factors which hold great precedence over society and individual's development as a whole. Abortion and reproductive rights are important social issues that reach many parts of society and do so by deriving connections to emotional, moral, and factual incentives.



# Nationally

The national standpoint on abortion, including organizations such as Planned Parenthood, is largely shaped by a factor that has always had a large influence on society -- religion. Many people argue with the belief "Every human life is precious" which is inherently Christian, believed to not "be proven by any branch of science, history, or the law."<sup>(1)</sup> However, the Constitution puts a great emphasis on the separation of church and state, making those who are pro-life utilize different methodologies to create policies. This argument being life's beginning at conception, so therefore abortion must equal murder. On the other hand, others advocate for women's rights to their own bodies by expressing that it is a choice to be made by the woman herself. To give birth or to not follow that path cannot be dictated by anyone other than the one in question, the owner of the body. A belief related to this mindset is "to be a woman is not necessary to have an abortion but to have an abortion is to be a woman," which can then be supported by the idea "giving death" creates a relation "between self and other" and "signifies a gender that gives death and a death that gives gender."<sup>(2)</sup> By this, it is understood whether abortion is perceived as immoral or not, it is ultimately the woman's choice. Abortion is a female subject and should be treated as such. This state of the issue of abortion is largely shaped by the social and cultural values of American citizens.



AFPimage: Pro-choice supporters in a demonstration in West Hollywood, California



Anti-abortion activists participate in the March for Life, an annual event to mark the anniversary of the 1973 Supreme Court case *Roe v. Wade*, which legalized abortion in the United States, outside the U.S. Supreme Court: SAUL LOEB / GETTY

- (1) George, "You Don't Have to be Christian to be Against Abortion (But it Helps)," 36-44.
- (2) Soros, "The Law of Generation: The Ethics of Abortion," 265.

# Nationally

In terms of economics, Planned Parenthood, an organization known to host abortion clinics, is funded by government grants, private donations, and revenue. Contrary to popular belief, it is actually illegal for an abortion to be funded by taxpayer dollars, except in the case of rape, incest, or endangering the life of the mother. “Currently, the Hyde Amendment permits the contribution of federal funds to the cost of abortions for women enrolled in Medicaid only in cases of rape, incest, and life endangerment of the woman”(3) opposing the belief that taxpayer money goes towards abortions. The Hyde Amendment is still held constitutional but considered controversial because it disproportionately affects women of color as well as poor women. Outlawing abortion altogether will only end the process of safe abortion. However, unsafe, illegal abortions will still be performed. On the same topic of policies, federal law impacts the accessibility of abortions and limits if or when women are allowed to have an abortion. In June 2018, Justice Kennedy announced his retirement from the Supreme Court. His announcement caused debate over abortion laws due to President Trump's promise that he would “only nominate pro-life judges to the Supreme Court.”(4) With the recent passing of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, this is alarming to those of the pro-choice community. The nomination of a pro-life judge could mean even more restrictions on women’s reproductive rights than are already there. “North Dakota's six-week abortion ban signed into law in March 2013. The bill proscribed abortions after an infant heartbeat is detectable”(5) and even states that overturned this law continue to increase regulation of and restrictions on abortion.



(3) Kubak, Katherine, Shelby Martin, et al, *ABORTION*.

(4) Kubak, Katherine, Shelby Martin, et al, *ABORTION*.

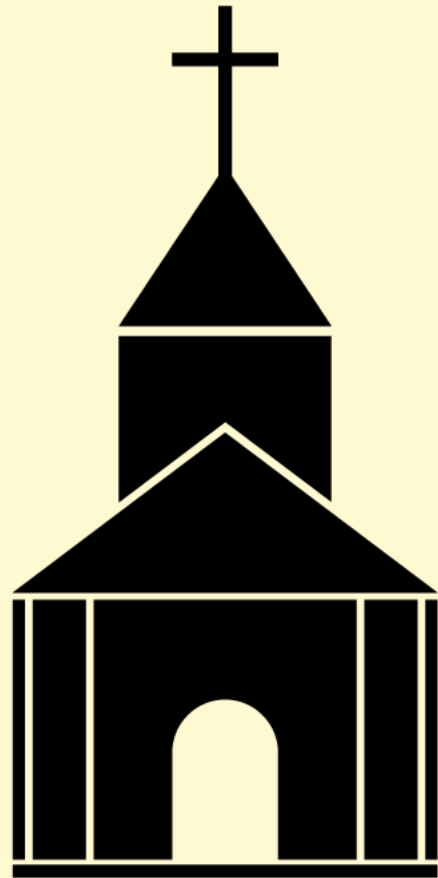
(5) Kubak, Katherine, Shelby Martin, et al, *ABORTION*.

# Locally

Shifting from the large picture to an isolated and more connected drawing, the topic of abortion has been prevalent in the state of Kentucky for years and has not settled in recent times. Planned Parenthood in Louisville is currently the only abortion clinic in the state; however, in 2017, Kentucky almost became the only state in the U.S. without a safe place for legal abortions when there was a fight to revoke the Planned Parenthood License. (6) Kentucky Legislation has had many Bills proposed and passed regarding abortion and restricting the procedure. Senate Bill 9, also known as the Fetal Heartbeat Bill, restricts abortions if a heartbeat is detected in the fetus. House Bill 5 was signed in 2019 to “protect unborn children from discriminatory abortive procedures.”(7)

You can find action being taken in Louisville, Kentucky among pro-lifers. A prominent example is at the Sojourn Community Church. The church organized a series of seminars to educate the members of the church on the sanctity of life. The first seminar begins with the participants taking a questionnaire on what they know about abortion, and the final seminar concludes with the same questionnaire to ensure that the sessions were educational and the participants can go and spread what they learned.(8) The goal of the seminar is to learn about abortion from three different perspectives: the Bible, history, and science.

Once the participants grasp a deep understanding of the message being conveyed, they are encouraged to go about and spread the word among the community.



Pro-lifers are not the only group taking action to educate and take action within the community, pro-choice activists are as well. The American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky (ACLU) started the Reproductive Freedom Project. “The ACLU of Kentucky’s Reproductive Freedom Project is dedicated to protecting and expanding reproductive rights for all Kentuckians through education, advocacy, and litigation.”(9) The Reproductive Freedom Project stands for advocacy, ligation, and public education. They organize volunteer lobbyists and present to diverse groups to spread their message of expanding reproductive rights.

(6) Brinkely, *Legislative Update on Abortion Access in Kentucky*, 5.

(7) Brinkely, *Legislative Update on Abortion Access in Kentucky*, 2.

(8) Tipton, James D. *Equipping Christians through Sojourn Community Church in Louisville, Kentucky, to Defend the Sanctity of Life*, 50.

(9) *Reproductive Freedom Project*.

# Option 1

## Description

The first option to consider when discussing the future of women's reproduction rights and pro-birth movements would be to legalize abortions for all women and to provide funding to those organizations that can provide abortions both safe and easily accessible. By legalizing abortion and making it easier for women to obtain, women who cannot have a child at the point in life they are at, women who have high-risk pregnancies, and women who are experiencing unwanted pregnancies will have an option which provides a guarantee of helping the future of the woman and preventing the unborn from having an unhealthy one as well. As a part of this method, important factors to consider when thinking about the benefits are reducing high mortality rates of pregnant women, reducing children put in foster care or abandoned after birth, and promoting autonomous control for Women, supporting their bodily rights.

## Actions

### 1. Support Planned Parenthood

Planned Parenthood is an organization primarily thought to "provide abortion services" alone, but a large amount of the services include "family planning, pap smears, immunizations, cancer screening, sexually transmitted disease testing" and many other healthcare services women may need to benefit their health.<sup>(10)</sup>

Currently, Planned Parenthood is funded by government family funded money, however Congress has witnessed a record number of abortion-limiting regulations, and continues to not only defund the organization but pass more anti-abortion rights laws than any time in history. Additionally, many of these regulations included "Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers (TRAP) laws" changing the format of abortion clinics into "Ambulatory Surgical Facilities."<sup>(11)</sup> In response to this reality, the proposal of endorsing Planned Parenthood would require the continued funding of government bodies to clinics still open, in addition to halting the movement of closing these services nation-wide. There is only one Planned Parenthood left in the entire state of Kentucky (Louisville), and a service which provides so much for women deserves to be more accessible to all.

### 2. Changing the abortion regulations and policies

Currently, there are three types of laws that are restricting accessibility to abortions: Targeted Regulations of Abortion Providers (TRAP) laws, counseling and ultrasound appointment requirement laws, and consent requirements for minors.<sup>(12)</sup> TRAP laws are used to "impose restrictions on medical offices" in order to "make abortion services more difficult to provide and to obtain," require counseling and waiting periods on a patient, and twenty-six states require providing "ultrasound or fetal heartbeat services in some way" under the notion of fully education women (while also shaming them).<sup>(13)</sup> Additionally, "require minors to notify either one or both parents of their decision to have an abortion."<sup>(14)</sup> In addition, as early as 2013, a bill passed in North Dakota referred to as the Heartbeat Bill has begun to spark debate from state to state as it began to take precedence in state policies. This bill states it is "a crime for a physician to knowingly perform an abortion without determining whether the fetus has a detectable heartbeat, without informing the mother of the results, or after determining that a fetus has a detectable heartbeat" with the physician possibly serving up to "5 years in prison" if this law is violated.<sup>(15)</sup>

<sup>(10)</sup> Primrose, Sarah. "The Attack on Planned Parenthood: A Historical Analysis."

<sup>(11)</sup> Ludlow, Jeannie. "Love and Goodness: Toward a New Abortion Politics."

<sup>(12)</sup> Kubak, Katherine, Shelby Martin, et al. "ABORTION."

<sup>(13)</sup> Kubak, Katherine, Shelby Martin, et al. "ABORTION."

<sup>(14)</sup> Kubak, Katherine, Shelby Martin, et al. "ABORTION."

<sup>(15)</sup> King, Steve. "H.R.490 - 116th Congress: Heartbeat Protection Act of 2019."

# Option 1

## 3. More Women in government positions

In this year of 2020, 127 of the 535 Congress members are women (23.7%), 26 women are in the Senate (26%), and 101 women are in the House of Representatives (23.2%).<sup>(16)</sup> Barely a quarter of the current government is composed of women representatives, yet the governing body still creates and regulates policies concerning women's bodies and health. A large, invasive force being run almost completely by men are the people who have taken the lead in enacting laws controlling women's bodies. However, regardless of whether or not the chair seats a man or woman in this position of power, there is still the question of why control is taken from the woman themselves. Every person is entitled to "the individual's right to be free from governmental intrusions" and believe the individual's interest is considered "largely subordinate to the government's" for "the individual is to be protected" by the beliefs of the Kansas Journal of Law.<sup>(17)</sup> If this is the case, a woman should be granted the ability to choose, hold the right to make decisions imperative to her future.

### Benefits

- This is a service beneficial to hundreds of thousands of women who cannot access their healthcare or live in "rural areas" and "otherwise would be unable to see a doctor."<sup>(18)</sup>
- Providing women with a clinic to perform safe and legal abortions reduces the chances of women resorting to dangerous and unethical methods if this option were inaccessible (i.e. coathanger abortions, pills).
- Informing women of other options available to them if they are not completely sure about abortions, such as adoption, raising the child with extended family, or even deciding to keep the child in the end.
- Planned Parenthood also serves the purpose of providing contraceptives and sex education, pregnancy tests, wellness checks on women who are pregnant and want to stay healthy, and helping women who have been sexually assaulted/have contracted STDs.<sup>(19)</sup>
- Making ultrasounds and counseling optional rather than mandatory allow women to make the choice for themselves of whether or not they want to know more about the embryo/fetus rather than shaming them into it.
- Helping women feel more represented in our government and advocating for them to gain full autonomous control is the strategy which promotes the importance of women's reproductive rights.
- It becomes easier to advocate for the termination of autonomous restrictions over women when they have a voice in the conversation, and can defend their mothers, sisters, and daughters.

<sup>(16)</sup> "Women in the U.S. Congress 2020." CAWP

<sup>(17)</sup> Beery, Brendan T. "Tiered Balancing and the Fate of Roe V. Wade: How the New Supreme Court Majority Could Turn the Undue-Burden Standard into a Deferential Pike Test."

<sup>(18)</sup> Primrose, Sarah. "The Attack on Planned Parenthood: A Historical Analysis."

<sup>(19)</sup> Parenthood, Planned. "Official Site." Planned Parenthood

# Option 1

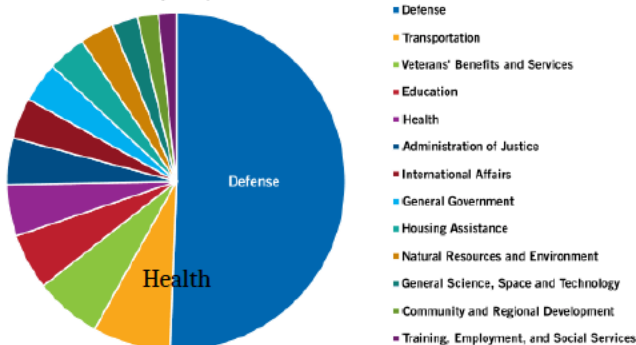
## Drawbacks

- Using government money in order to fund Planned Parenthood, which is different than how it is funded now, would be very difficult considering how thin money is spread currently in terms of budget. This would fall under Health and Medical expenses, and even now only about 5% of funding goes towards this section.
- Taxpaying money going towards this organization would cause social uproar for people who are extremely anti-abortion.
- Changing policies that have already been in place for a long period of time takes a large number of people to vote to change them, and even then, the process is long and difficult.
- The Heartbeat Bill is one with growing attraction, and many states have begun to implement them will not go back on this decision. In addition, there will still be many who argue because a heartbeat can be detected as early as 5 to 6 weeks in an embryo, a life is being taken away preemptively.
- Allowing minors to make the decision of obtaining an abortion without parental consent can cause a great disagreement over the control parents are allowed to have over their child's medical care.
- Just because a woman is elected into office does not mean she supports women's rights to their own bodily autonomy. Take Amy Barrett for example. She has been appointed to Supreme Court very recently and her beliefs would make contraceptives and birth control inaccessible for women under the belief they cause abortions, and even believes the death penalty is a viable option to women who attempt to/have had an abortion.



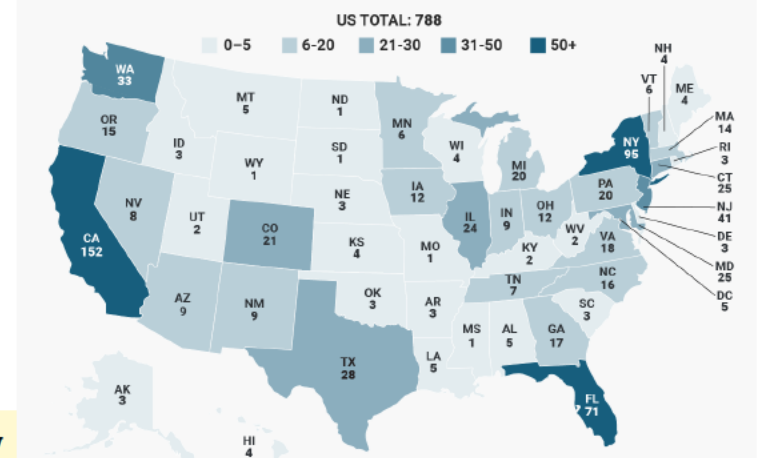
Defense spending accounts for about half of total discretionary spending

2019 Discretionary Outlays: \$1,338 Billion



Pie chart of government spending money in 2019 as provided by "Peter G. Peterson Foundation". Defense makes up for nearly half the amount while health is between about 4 and 8 percent <https://www.pgpf.org>

## ABORTION CLINICS PER STATE, 2014



SOURCE: Guttmacher Institute

BUSINESS INSIDER

Skye Gould/Business Insider



# Option 2

## Description

The second option for our deliberation would be to make all abortions illegal. Supporters of the pro-life movement typically choose similar arguments for the immorality of abortion and claim that abortion should be illegal. Ultimately, the argument for making abortion completely illegal is protecting a life under the law. Murder is illegal in all parts of the world, so having abortion available is allowing for a form of murder.

## Actions

### 1. Define a fetus as a human under law.

Some of the significant features that define humans and set them apart from other organisms include erect posture and bipedalism, the hand with the opposable thumb, and the face and eyes.<sup>(20)</sup> At week 5, an embryo's spinal cord and brain begin to form and the external features begin to form; by the end of week 7, eyes and ears begin to form; and it is in week 8 that the embryo grows fingers.<sup>(21)</sup> By the time that they are 9 weeks old- still the first trimester of pregnancy- the embryo has these three defining characteristics that separate humans from other organisms. The definition of life is "an organismic state characterized by capacity for metabolism growth, reaction to stimuli, and reproduction."<sup>(22)</sup> Glucose provides energy for the placenta which in turn allows for the fetus to metabolize and grow.<sup>(23)</sup> A study conducted by Viola Marx and Emese Nagy showed that fetuses show response to stimuli even earlier than originally believed. In the study, fetuses from 21-25 weeks responded to touch by moving their bodies, mouths, or yawning.<sup>(24)</sup> Also, between weeks 9 and 12, a fetus' reproductive organs will begin to develop.<sup>(25)</sup> A fetus has all the characteristics listed in the definition of life provided, suggesting that a fetus is a living thing. Considering that a fetus shows characteristics that define humans and they fit the description of life, it could be said that a fetus is a living human and deserves to be treated as one.

### 2. Define abortion as murder under law.

Since they fit the criteria of life, fetuses could be protected by our country's laws in the same way that other humans are. Murder is the "unlawful killing of a human being with malice."<sup>(26)</sup> So, a fetus's life should be protected under the definition of murder, the same as all other humans. By terminating a pregnancy, an innocent life is being taken. Because of this, there should be laws and policy enforcing all abortions to be illegal nation-wide.

<sup>(20)</sup> "The Physical Characteristics of Humans."

<sup>(21)</sup> "Fetal Development: Month-by-Month Stages of Pregnancy."

<sup>(22)</sup> "Life." Merriam-Webster Dictionary.

<sup>(23)</sup> Hay, William. "Placental-Fetal Glucose Exchange and Fetal Glucose Metabolism."

<sup>(24)</sup> Marx, Viola. "Fetal Behavioral Responses to Maternal Voice and Touch."

<sup>(25)</sup> Fetal Development: Month-by-Month Stages of Pregnancy."

<sup>(26)</sup> "1536. Murder -- Definition And Degrees."

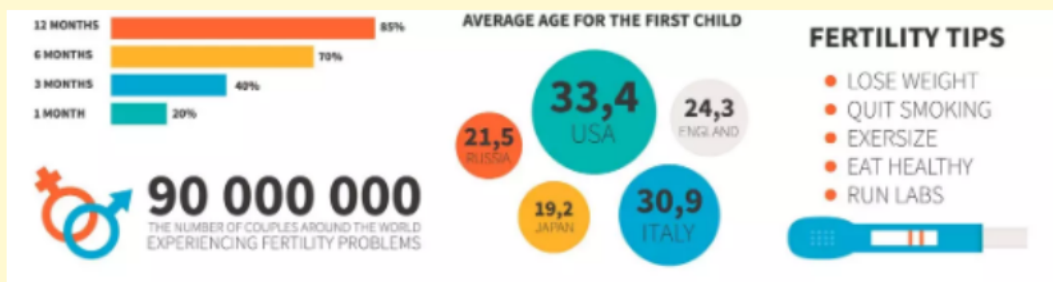
# Option 2

## 3. Overturn Roe Vs. Wade

Roe v. Wade was passed in 1973, stating that banning abortions was unconstitutional within the United States.(27) The court claimed that the fetus is not a living being but a “potential life” in the case of Roe vs. Wade, which may not be true. The Court divided the pregnancy into three trimesters: the first in which a woman had complete privacy and held full responsibility for making her decision on abortion; the second in which the state can regulate abortion for the sake of the health of the woman; and the third trimester in which the state can regulate abortion for the sake of the “potential life” of the fetus.(28) Rather than giving the state the opportunity to regulate abortion for the sake of the potential life at the third trimester, they should have this power from the first trimester of pregnancy.

### Benefits

- More families would have the opportunity to adopt. There are thousands of couples in the United States who wish to have children but are biologically unable to. Adoption would become more of a viable option for these couples.
- Providing the option for the child to grow and make societal contributions. When a life is taken before it even has the chance to see the world, it is stripped of every opportunity to do something good in the world.
- The word of God would not be defied. “You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother’s womb” (Psalm 139:13) shows that God designs a person from the moment they are in the womb.
- Millions of innocent lives would be saved.



90,000,000 couples experience fertility issues, making adoption a viable option.

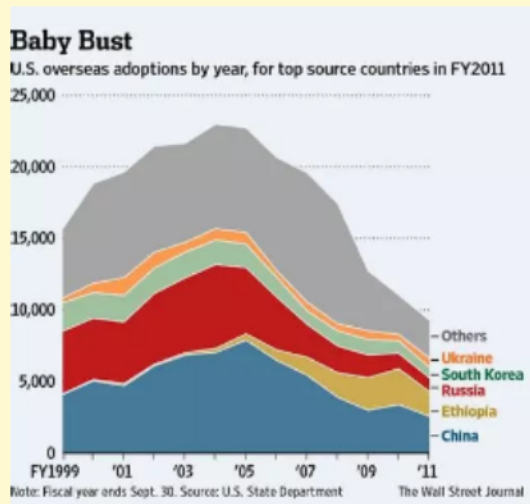
(27) Nunez-Eddy, Claudia. "Roe v. Wade (1973)."

(28) Pro-Life Activists. "Summary of Roe v. Wade and Other Key Abortion Cases."

# Option 2

## Drawbacks

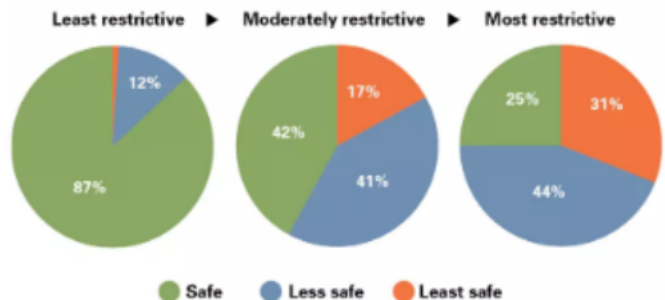
- There could be a rise in the number of children in the adoption system. Having access to abortion reduces the amount of children in the adoption system, so if abortion were illegal, we should expect to see an increase in numbers for children needing adopted.
- A lot of American's tend to adopt internationally, so the families who are looking to adopt may not even adopt the children who were forced into the system because abortion wasn't available.
- There would still be illegal and at-home abortions performed, which is not safe. The number of deaths from abortion could increase the amount of deaths of women due to illegal procedures.
- Women would lose the right to make a choice about their own body. Going through pregnancy is not something that every woman is ready for- they have the possibility of health issues, losing their job, and more.



In 2011, nearly 10,000 children were adopted overseas from the U.S.

FIGURE

**2.4** The proportion of all abortions that are estimated to be least safe increases as abortion laws become more restrictive.



• NOTES TO FIGURE 2.4 Least restrictive consists of countries in abortion legality category 6; moderately restrictive, categories 4 and 5; and most restrictive, categories 1-3. Safe abortions are those performed using a safe method with an appropriately trained provider; less-safe abortions meet only one of those criteria; and least-safe abortions meet neither. Source: reference 7.

www.guttmacher.org

As abortion laws become more restrictive, there are more unsafe abortions performed.


# Option 3



## Description


The topic of abortion is generally considered a divisive subject and a lot of people believe that there is no gray area. They think that if you're not pro-life, you're pro-abortion. The pro-choice viewpoint, however, is the middle ground between the two, allowing women to have control of their own bodies and be responsible for their own choices. However, there is a legitimate compromise that should satisfy both sides of the situation: allowing legal abortions only before a certain point early in the pregnancy, if absolutely necessary. This way, it is still an option, but late term abortions after the fetus has developed past a certain point will not be allowed. In exchange for this, in order to lower abortion rates, free birth control and contraceptives should be made more accessible, comprehensive sex education should be taught in all 50 states, prenatal healthcare should be provided, and the rape/incest law should still stand.

## Actions



### 1. Providing free birth control and contraceptives

Sex is a natural part of life, and abstinence should not be seen as the sole form of birth control. Providing free birth control and other contraceptives such as condoms and plan B has been proven to lower abortion rates. Both birth rates and abortion rates have lowered in recent years. "The 2017 rate of 13.5 abortions per 1,000 women aged 15–44 is the lowest recorded since abortion was legalized nationally in 1973 and is 54% lower than the peak rate of 29.3 per 1,000 in 1980. The decline was seen across all four regions and most states."<sup>(29)</sup> While the goal of the pro-life community is to reduce the abortion rate to 0%, this is impossible, but with the availability of contraceptives and birth control, the rate can still be lowered. Abortions are always going to be performed, it is just a matter of legality and safety. "The most recent national data suggest that between 2014 and 2016, the proportion of women aged 15–44 using long-acting reversible contraceptive methods increased by 23%, from 13% to 16%; levels of sterilization were 25% and 26%, respectively."<sup>(30)</sup> Not every pregnancy is a result of failure or lack of contraceptives though. In some cases, women are forcibly impregnated due to rape, or impregnated with the child of a family member. Although the amount of pregnancies resulting from rape and incest are very low (1% and 0.05%, respectively),<sup>(31)</sup> the woman should still be allowed to have an abortion. It is important that states maintain the rape/incest laws to allow this to happen. It's immoral to not allow a woman to terminate a pregnancy that she was forced into.



<sup>(29)</sup> Jones, Witwer, Jerman, "Abortion Incidence and Service Availability in the United States", 2017.

<sup>(30)</sup> Finer, Frohwirth, et al, "Reasons U.S. Women Have Abortions"

<sup>(31)</sup> Finer, Frohwirth, et al, "Reasons U.S. Women Have Abortions"

# Option 3

## 2. Improve prenatal healthcare services

Contrary to popular belief, Planned Parenthood is not an abortion factory, and there are many kinds of prenatal healthcare available to women there. When it comes to prenatal health specifically, the Planned Parenthood website states “The expert and caring staff at your local Planned Parenthood health center can talk with you about all of your pregnancy-related concerns, and help you get care you need. We offer services such as...pregnancy planning services, prenatal services, childbirth classes, trained staff to discuss options if you are pregnant, trained staff to talk with you about early pregnancy loss (miscarriage), other pregnancy services.”<sup>(32)</sup> Oftentimes, these services are vastly cheaper than services provided at other doctor’s offices. This makes Planned Parenthood much more accessible and a much more valuable resource, especially to those who struggle financially. Keeping Planned Parenthood funded will allow much easier and more affordable access to these resources, which could potentially save lives.

## 3. Provide comprehensive sex education nationwide

Sex education is extremely important. Everyone deserves to know about their own autonomy and what they can do to protect themselves and others. Abstinence-only sex education is quite common throughout the United States. Students from the University of Georgia carefully designed a study to analyze the effects of abstinence-only sex education on teen pregnancy. Their study yielded the following results: The more strongly abstinence is emphasized in state laws and policies, the higher the average teenage pregnancy and birth rate. States that taught comprehensive sex and/or HIV education and covered abstinence along with contraception and condom use (level 1 sex education; also referred to as “abstinence-plus”) tended to have the lowest teen pregnancy rates, while states with abstinence-only sex education laws that stress abstinence until marriage (level 3) were significantly less successful in preventing teen pregnancies.<sup>(33)</sup> Comprehensive sex education refers to teaching students that sex is normal, but also ways that they can protect themselves against teenage pregnancy and/or sexually transmitted infections and the communication and interpersonal skills necessary to maintain a healthy sexual relationship. As the study concluded, states are more likely to prevent teen pregnancy if they actually teach them what they need to be taught about their own bodies. Failure to do so can result in lack of knowledge about contraceptives, especially in the heavily-emphasized abstinence-only states where they barely mention contraceptives, which as we know results in higher teen pregnancy rates.

<sup>(32)</sup> Planned Parenthood, “Pregnancy Testing & Health Services,” Planned Parenthood,.

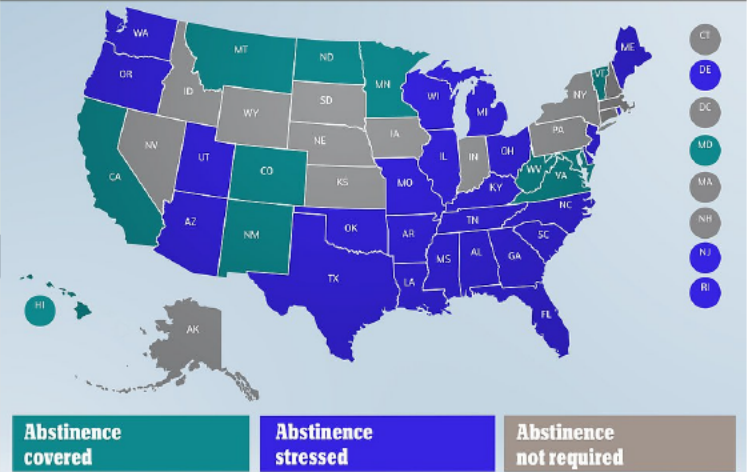
<sup>(33)</sup> Stanger-Hall, Kathrin E., and David W. Hall, “Abstinence-Only Education and Teen Pregnancy Rates”

# Option 3

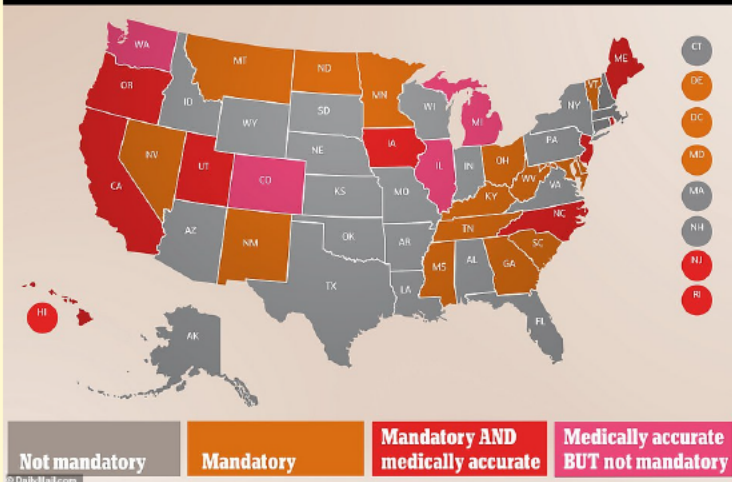
## Benefits

- The pregnant patients are still able to receive safe, legal abortions as long as they are before a certain point in the pregnancy. This includes but is not limited to situations in which the mother was raped, situations involving incest, and situations in which the pregnancy is not viable and/or would cause severe damage or death to the mother.
- Women are able to make a choice that they know would be best for them.
- By allowing Planned Parenthood to remain open, both men and women will have access to various forms of reproductive healthcare.
- Teen pregnancy rates will be lowered with the addition of comprehensive sex ed nationwide.
- With accessible and free contraceptives, people are more likely to engage in safe sex, thus reducing the risk of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.
- Unsafe abortions would be reduced

### ABSTINENCE EDUCATION IN AMERICA The states where abstinence is covered, stressed and not required



### WHERE SEX EDUCATION IS MANDATED IN AMERICA



Source: Guttmacher Institute

# Option 3

## Drawbacks

- With free and accessible birth control and contraceptives, there is a possibility of higher taxes in order to fund this.
- Abortion still ends a human life, regardless of the reason.
- Nationwide sex education reform could be hard to achieve.
- Contraceptives and sex education might be harder to get in certain types of schools, such as private schools or religious schools.

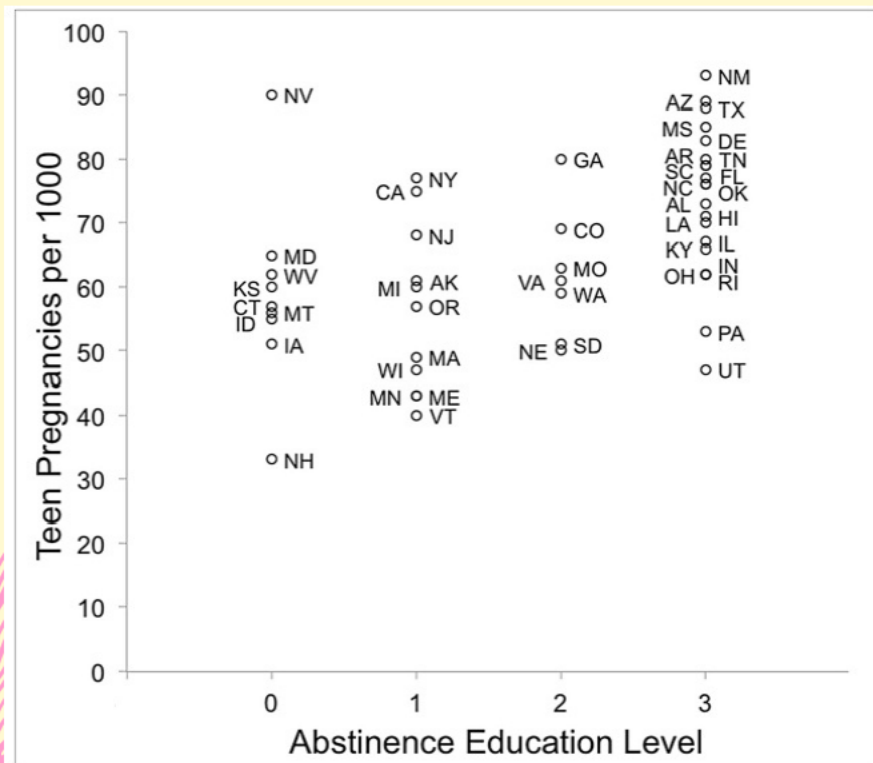


Chart comparing the state's abstinence level and teen pregnancies per 1000. Provided by PLoS One.

# Conclusion

The discussion of women's control over their reproductive organs and the government's action to support the full term of life is one that reaches across various parts of the nation, even touching many parts of our own community. Even though not every person can find themselves relating to this issue personally, everyone has some strong, rooted opinion on this subject that can make proper deliberation difficult.

Understanding the political, sociocultural, and economic components tied into this topic for both America as a whole and our own locale will help gain a more expansive understanding of both sides of the issue. With this, people will be able to learn more about their own views and even listen and consider the opposition. Being able to talk about this issue, whether it be in any of the three perspectives discussed today, is and will continue to be important in current society because of its ever-changing state, and the certitude this issue has a great impact on women of all stages in life. The discussion over a woman's body, whether liked or not, remains a part of society's agenda, which is why the proper comprehension of its components yield progression.





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