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Abortion

It is a right for a human to choose their fate. No one should make decisions for someone else when they’re perfectly competent to comprehend the situation. It is a woman’s right to have the choice between keeping the baby or not. I’m pro-choice and support abortion rights therefore I believe the woman has all of authority over her body. The man involved may have a say in the situation, but the woman is the one ultimately deciding. There should be limits to how far along a woman can have an abortion. After about 2 months the baby in the womb has a heart, so it is considered a human being at that point. Anything before that the embryo isn’t considered a human. Mary Anne Warren made a great point about the traits of personhood. She says that consciousness, reasoning, self-motivated activity, capacity to communicate, and self-awareness are what make a human. Although that is correct, a baby in the womb has limited capability of showing life, so her points are too vague in the case of abortion.

I do not agree with Pope John Paul II that abortion is murder from conception. The “baby” is anything but that. In the beginning it is just cells with no sign of life let alone presence. A woman wouldn’t know that she’s pregnant for at least a week or so when she can take a pregnancy test and even then, the test may give a false negative or positive. The best way to know is through an ultrasound, where a doctor can visibly see it. John Paul II states that the baby is the most innocent of lives, so it can never be labeled as an aggressor, therefore abortion is murder. By his wording, he makes it sound like the “baby” feels pain and is aware of what’s happening. It is impossible for cells to feel anything.

Abortion and its rights have always been a big political topic. Recently Texas has banned abortion overall and have made it illegal, which sets us back in time. They have dismissed extreme cases in the past like rape and tend to blame the victim, which is absolutely absurd. Women are resorting to traveling out of state or out of the country to perform an abortion now. This makes the treatment for the women less accessible and it might take hours or even days. I believe abortion should be a human right. Some women make the decision to have an abortion due to financial problems and that is a valid reason, too. Finally, a woman shouldn’t just get an abortion for fun; that would be unethical.

Harriet Pilpel from *The Atlantic* makes the argument that the government is fixed on solving overpopulation, yet so many unwanted babies are born. Japan regulated its population growth, and it halved its birth rate in a decade. This is another reason why abortion should be on a voluntary basis. the New York chapter of the National Organization for Women notes that “There is no perfect contraceptive. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration reports that the intrauterine devices, one of the most effective contraceptives available today, have a failure rate of 1.5 to 3%. This means that if all married women in the United States could and did use these contraceptives, there would still be about 350,000 to 700,000 unwanted pregnancies a year among married women alone. Even sterilization is not a 100% effective method of contraception; some operations fail. Therefore, in order to insure a complete and thorough birth control program, abortion must be made available as a legal right to all women who request it.”

Abortion became illegal in the 1800s solely because surgeries back then were of very high risk. The only time they would perform abortions is if the mother’s life is in danger and her life-threatening situation outweighs the risk of infection or other problems during surgery. It was never in favor of the fetus. Nowadays, this scenario is reversed: abortion is safer in hospitals than childbirth. Though in the future, women might have difficulties getting pregnant.

More than 800 scientists have confirmed and proven that abortion is an important component of reproductive health care. Since today’s climate on abortion ban, scientists are eager to weigh in on the issue. Recently Texas and Mississippi had both fought the case of abortion which allows the states to ignore the viability standard which is 22-24 weeks of pregnancy. Although Roe v. Wade was a landmark in the court, their argument now is that it’s outdated. In 1973 the Supreme Court decided that a woman has a right to a choice in abortion specifically without excessive government restrictions or rules. So, why do they want to ignore and change the rights?

Women have expressed how abortion ban is an assault on reproductive freedom. This way the government sends a message to all the women in the U.S. that women’s rights are not their problem. The one group of leaders that could potentially help women’s rights are employers. Businessmen, CEOs, bosses, and everyone in the workplace strive to protect their employees. One study found abortion restrictions caused $105 billion in economic losses last year alone. Several states already have decided on abortion ban after just a few weeks, which gives women little to no time to decide and/or realize they’re pregnant.

To wrap it up, women these days are living in fear of getting their rights taken away. They are resorting to out of state treatment, may be forced to have an unwanted child, and may not get a well-paid leave. Abortion is not murder; it is a right and a choice for a woman to make. The woman is always the one who should be prioritized. I truly hope that one day the government stops discussing a woman’s body and what to do with it. If anything, why doesn’t the man get a vasectomy? Or another type of birth control? Why do men always expect women to have birth control? The only type men use are condoms and I’m sure that some if not most men prefer not to use a condom. Still, it’s not 100% effective. In fact, no birth control is always 100% effective, so why shouldn’t abortion be a last resort to women, when plan A and plan B didn’t work? There are many debates in favor of abortion and yet it’s always two-sided. Unfortunately, we’ve come to a dead end where we’re stuck between two beliefs.

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/12/08/opinions/abortion-laws-supreme-court-business-saujani/index.html>

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-timeline-of-how-abortion-laws-could-affect-pregnancy-decisions/>

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