



Roe v. Wade

Why Young Feminists Should Say NO ON ALITO!

"I am particularly proud of my contributions in recent cases in which the government argued ... that the Constitution does not protect a right to an abortion."

-Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito, in a 1985 application to the Reagan administration

Fast Facts on Roe v. Wade

- *Roe v. Wade* was decided January 22, 1973
- Jane **Roe**, whose real name is Norma McCorvey, brought the case against the abortion laws in Texas. At the time, it was a criminal offense to receive an abortion unless the life of the woman was in danger.
- Henry **Wade** was the Texas State's Attorney General who argued in favor of the Texas law.
- Sarah Weddington, a 26-year-old lawyer from Texas, argued Roe's case.
- **Legal Foundation:** *Griswold v. Connecticut* (1965) was the foundation case for *Roe*. Estelle Griswold violated a Connecticut law against the use of contraceptives by providing birth control to married couples. The Court decided that the First, Third, Fourth and Ninth Amendments collectively establish a right to privacy in marital relations.
- *Eisenstadt v. Baird* (1972) was the other foundation case for *Roe*. The Court found that denying birth control to unmarried couples while permitting it for married couples violated Equal Protection clause of the 14th Amendment.
- **Court Conclusion:** The Court in *Roe* decided that a women's right to an abortion fell under the protection of the right to privacy previously established in *Griswold*. Thus, a woman had full control over her pregnancy in the first trimester, yet states were given "levels of interest" to regulate abortions for the second trimester and third trimester (to protect the woman's health).
- If *Roe* is overturned, each state would determine the abortion option for their residents.

Roe means.....

-that abortion doesn't include a back alley, wire hanger or a long, costly journey to find a medically safe procedure.
-the opportunity to make informed decisions about reproductive health.
-access to safe medical procedures to carry out an abortion decision.
-choice!

Take Action!!

SAY NO ON ALITO!!

Protest, Call, Write Letters!

Visit:

www.now.org/savethecourt

www.now.org/campus

Why Should We Care??

Anyone born after the *Roe* decision has lived with the freedom of reproductive choice. Most women and men can't imagine living without that freedom and don't ever want to experience life without it. Before abortion was legal, it is estimated that more than a million women sought illegal abortions. Thousands died from these procedures.

If abortion becomes illegal, it will not stop women from seeking them. If *Roe* is overturned (as Samuel Alito might have it), the repercussions could be devastating. Not only would access to abortion be gone, but access to emergency contraceptives (EC) and birth control (BC) could be in danger. Even if you're not on the pill, it's important that EC and BC are available *just in case*.