A Woman’s Body, A Woman’s Choice (Until the Supreme Court Says No?)

*What is the Mississippi Case Currently Under Review?*

In the 1973 Roe v. Wade case, the Supreme Court ruled that the 14th Amendment to the Constitution provides a "right to privacy" that protects a woman's right to choose to have an abortion. Later the Court established the right to abortion up to the point of fetal viability, after which it depends on circumstances like the health of the mother. The issue before the Supreme Court now is that Mississippi wants to outlaw abortion after 15 weeks, not at the fetal viability standard of 24 weeks. This would overturn the established right to choose abortion and enable other states to further limit legal abortions.

*Why is it important?*

Americans oppose overturning Roe v. Wade by a 2 to 1 margin\*. No one should be forced to have an unwanted pregnancy. Women won the right to control their bodies in 1973. We cannot go back to women being forced to endure pregnancies or dying from illegal, unsafe procedures. Unwanted pregnancies have adverse consequences for women, families and communities.

*What can we do?*

In Washington State, the right to abortion is protected by law. We passed Initiative 120 in 1991. Now is the time to codify this right nationally into U.S. law. Contact Senators Murray and Cantwell, and Representative Herrera Beutler at the Congressional switchboard: (202) 224-3121.

\* Nov. 7-10 Washington Post – ABC News Poll

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