

John McCain the Republican Party and Abortion

In the year 2000, John McCain was against overturning Roe V Wade because doing so would force women to undergo illegal and dangerous operations as they were susceptible to prior to the passing of Roe in 1973 . Compare that to the Republican platform in 2008 in which McCain approved. It goes well beyond overturning Roe. It endorses a constitutional amendment to ban abortion in all 50 states, even in cases of rape and incest. In order to assure the right wing constituents or the Republican Party that he is serious on his new stance on abortion, he chose a conservative right wing republican that believes that abortion should only be performed if the pregnancy threatens the life of the mother. McCain says that life begins at conception and that abortion is murder. So does Sarah Palin. McCain in recent days has said that he is in favor of allowing an abortion if a child is conceived by rape or incest. If elected President of the United States, McCain has promised to appoint Justices who strictly interpret the Constitution of the United States like John Roberts, Samuel Alito, Antonin Scalia, and Clarence Thomas, who have all questioned the constitutionality of Roe v Wade.

McCain knows the history of the Republican Party platform very well. It was in 1976 that the first-term Senator Jesse Helms from North Carolina decided to use the anti-abortion forum on which to rebuild the conservative movement that had eroded over the previous years. In addition, it was the first Republican National Convention when the emerging pro-family movement raised its voice in politics. It opposed "intrusion by the federal government" in education and called for constitutional amendments to restore prayer to schools and "to restore protection of the right to life for unborn children." In 1980 the Platform again affirmed "support of a constitutional amendment to restore protection of the right to life for unborn children." This has lead up to the most conservative republican platform stance against abortion to date as described above. There has not been a Republican elected President since Ronald Reagan that has not taken a anti-abortion stance. Thus one sees the reason for John McCain's change of heart in now wanting to overturn Roe V Wade. He fears that the right wing constituents would not come out and vote for him and thus he would loose the election.

Abortion is a dilemma for most people whether they are for or against it. Abortion is a moral issue. In essence it is a code or guide of conduct put forward by a society or a group. As Barack Obama has said, "There is a moral dimension to abortion, which I think that all too often those of us who are pro choice have not talked about." Both Obama and Biden support Roe v Wade. Obama has stated that abortion should be legal but that the number of abortions should be dramatically reduced. He has gone further to state that late term abortions should not be performed just for maternal mental reasons. There should be physical reasons in essence that threaten the mother's life or health.

The decision to have an abortion, whether in the first, second, or late term, is never an easy one. I perform abortions on a daily basis. I see first hand the agony that patients face to undergo the abortion, keep the pregnancy, or adoption. I discuss with each patient the financial, moral, ethical, age, family, single parent, mental, physical, emotional, psychological and specific circumstances that pertain to each individual patient prior to making the determination. After discussing the above with the patient, there are many times that we come to the conclusion that the abortion should not be performed. For those where there are complications with the fetus where it is not viable (either will die in the uterus or shortly after birth) presents a totally different dilemma. Those women wanted their baby, and it has been found that it is not developing normally or has some chromosomal (genetic) problem.

I would be happier if there were no need for abortion. The truth is that women are going to get abortions whether they are legal or not legal. The number of abortions did not increase after the passing of Roe v Wade. There was a significant decrease in maternal morbidity and mortality. I saw abortion wards in hospitals where there were women that had botched and unsafe abortions,

prior to the passing of Roe v Wade. We do not need to go back to women using coat hangers on themselves to rid themselves of their unwanted pregnancy. The affluent women will be able to have their abortion because they will be able to fly to which ever state abortion may be legal. It will be the poor and youngest women that will suffer from the overturning of Roe.

McCain was around prior to the passing of Roe v Wade. He saw the devastation that took place to women that had unsafe back alley abortions. In 2000 he agreed that Roe v Wade should remain the law of the land. In 2008, he has changed his mind because he knows that he can't be President any other way. Think about it.

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