



Roe Reality Check #7

myth: Most American women support
Roe v. Wade.

fact: Most do not.

Roe v. Wade legalized abortion throughout pregnancy, for virtually any reason.¹

Yet according to a national survey of women published by the Center for Gender Equality, "only 30% think abortion should be generally available."²

In fact, *most* women say abortion should be substantially limited or never permitted:

- ◆ 17% said abortion should never be permitted.
- ◆ 34% said abortion should be permitted only in cases of rape, incest, and to save the woman's life.³

And when asked to rank 12 issues in order of importance for the women's movement, women ranked "Keeping abortion legal" next to last.⁴

1 See *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), *Doe v. Bolton*, 410 U.S. 179 (1973), and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, 505 U.S. 833 (1992).

2 "Progress and Perils: How Gender Issues Unite and Divide Women, Part Two," Center for Gender Equality, April 7, 2003 (conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates) at 9-10.

3 *Id.* Approximately 2% of abortions are done for these reasons. See A. Torres and J. Forrest, "Why Do Women Have Abortions?" *Family Planning Perspectives* 20.4 (July/August 1988), 169-76. See Data from Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (showing drop in Medicaid-funded abortions by over 99% -- from 294,600 in Fiscal Year 1977 to fewer than 1,000 in FY 1982 and subsequent years -- when the federal Medicaid program began funding only abortions to save the mother's life).

4 "More girls in sports" was ranked last. "Progress and Perils" at 4.

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