



## Roe Reality Check #10

*myth:* Abortion is legal only when the fetus is in the womb.

*fact:* Even a child who is partially-born can be legally aborted.

Partial-birth abortion kills a fetus during the process of delivery.

At first, abortion providers said it was rare, and used only on women whose lives were in danger or whose fetuses were damaged.<sup>1</sup>

But Ron Fitzsimmons, then the Executive Director of the National Coalition of Abortion Providers, admitted he had "lied through my teeth."<sup>2</sup>

He admitted that most partial-birth abortions are *not* done for "extreme circumstances" but are "primarily done on healthy women and healthy fetuses."<sup>3</sup>

In 2000 the Supreme Court said states cannot ban partial-birth abortion even with an exception to save the mother's life.

The Court said such a ban violates "the woman's right to choose" established by *Roe v. Wade*.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "An Abortion Rights Advocate Says He Lied About Procedure," *The New York Times*, A11 (February 26, 1997).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> "Medicine adds to debate on late-term abortion," *American Medical News*, American Medical Association (March 3, 1997).

<sup>4</sup> *Stenberg v. Carhart*, 530 U.S. 914, 929-30 (2000) ("The question before us is whether Nebraska's statute, making criminal the performance of a 'partial birth abortion,' violates the Federal Constitution, as interpreted in *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pa. v. Casey*, 505 U.S. 833 (1992), and *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973). We conclude that it does...").

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