



Christian Voices for Life

Weekly Pro-Life

Education

Prayer

Action

Why Late Term Abortions? (Not Just in New York)



Child in utero 5 mos.

Education: The passage of New York's bill to allow abortion up until birth has been met with shock and outrage. The fact is, however, that *Roe v. Wade* legalized abortion up until birth in all 50 states. Only in 2007 did another Supreme Court ruling (*Gonzales vs Carhart*) allow states to restrict abortion without a "woman's health" exception. Since health is interpreted to include mental health, such an "exception" essentially negates any restriction. (1) After 2007, many states began passing restrictions such as parental consent, waiting periods, and requirements for ultrasound images to be made available to the mother. In addition, most states passed restrictions forbidding abortion after a certain number of weeks gestation (20 to 28 weeks). Several states, however, did not pass such

restrictions, and abortion has remained legal up until birth in Alaska, Colorado, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, and Vermont, along with Washington, D.C. A number of other states "ban" late term abortions, but allow the health exception, and additional states allow it for reasons of fetal anomalies. (2)

But why would women wait until so late in their pregnancy to seek an abortion? Some are chosen because of diagnosis of a fetal abnormality, such as Downs Syndrome, but this is NOT the majority of cases. Many are done on teens or adults who had simply put off dealing with the issue. Some women simply had no pregnancy symptoms and did not realize they were pregnant until late in the pregnancy, or they were unsure of the date of their last period. Some had trouble making arrangements or making a decision. One survey showed that among hundreds of women having 2nd trimester abortions, not one was for a medical reason.(3)

1. <http://www.pewforum.org/2013/01/16/a-history-of-key-abortion-rulings-of-the-us-supreme-court/>
2. <https://www.gutmacher.org/state-policy/explore/state-policies-later-abortions>
3. <https://www.liveaction.org/news/why-do-women-get-late-term-abortions/>



Prayer: Dear Father God, please have mercy on all parents who find themselves considering a late-term abortion. In the case of an adverse pre-natal diagnosis, help them to trust in your plan for their family and to find the resources and support they need to help their child to reach their full potential. Help all parents considering abortion at any stage to realize that there are alternative solutions to whatever problems they face that do not involve ending the life of a child that God has entrusted to their care. Help them to find the practical help and support they need to feel empowered to choose life.



Action: Express your dismay at New York's new law, but also inform your friends that abortion up until birth has been legal in many states since 1973. It has more recently become more frequent and more accepted. Abortion is wrong at any stage, but to allow the killing of a child able to survive outside the womb is particularly shocking. New York is also allowing babies who are born alive during an attempted abortion to be left to die, and gone along with the abortion industry's push for non-physicians to be allowed to perform abortions. It seems that the desire to make abortion available (and profit from

it, with fewer doctors being willing to do them) is more important than making it safe for women.