



Detroit Action Network For Reproductive Rights

FACT SHEET NO. 1

(313) 378-2369 / email: detroitaction@netscape.net

DID YOU KNOW? GET THE FACTS. GET ANGRY. TAKE ACTION!

- On March 6, 2006, South Dakota Gov. Mike Rounds signed into law HB1215 (the so-called “Women’s Health and Human Life Protection Act”) that will eliminate the right of women to choice effective July 1.
- According to the Institute for Women’s Policy Research report on the Status of Women in South Dakota, median annual earnings for women there rank last in the nation.
- Only abortions performed to save a woman’s life will be legal in SD, and then, doctors must try to save the life of the fetus as well as the woman.
- The new law has no exceptions for cases of rape and incest.
- Doctors in S. Dakota will face a \$5,000 fine and five years in prison if they perform an abortion.
- The South Dakota law was designed and implemented with the ultimate goal of being reviewed by the U.S. Supreme Court in the hope of overturning *Roe v. Wade*.
- Ohio, Mississippi, Indiana, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky and other states have introduced similar laws in their state legislatures.
- Rightwing petition drives to outlaw choice are underway in about a dozen states, including Michigan.
- The 1973 landmark decision in *Roe* was won after years of mass struggle by women around the U.S.
- Before 1973, up to 1.2 million illegal abortions took place in the U.S. annually. An estimated 5,000 to 10,000 women died each year as a result of botched illegal procedures.
- In 1965, 17 percent of all deaths due to pregnancy and childbirth were the result of unsafe illegal abortion. [Planned Parenthood]
- Since 1973 the right to choice has been constantly challenged and whittled away by many states and the federal government.
- In 1977 Jimmy Carter signed the Hyde Amendment which cut off Medicaid funding for abortion services for 23 million poor women.
- Half the states have restrictions like “waiting periods” and requiring young women to obtain parental consent or go before a judge.
- Since 1977, over 15,000 cases of violence and/or harassment against abortion providers, including seven murders and 17 attempted murders, have been reported (actual instances are most likely much higher.) [Abortion Access Project]
- Over 87% of U.S. counties do not have abortion services even though 34% of all women ages 15 to 44 live in those counties. [Women’s Reproductive Rights Assistance Project]
- Since 1982, the number of abortion providers has decreased by 37%. From 1982 to 2000, the number of hospitals providing abortions has decreased by 57%. [Abortion Access Project]
- Over 31% of U.S. metropolitan areas have no providers. [Women’s Reproductive Rights Assistance Project]
- In 2000, more than half of all providers experienced anti-choice harassment. [Abortion Access Project]
- 80% of residency programs do not require doctors to learn abortion procedures. [Women’s Reproductive Rights Assistance Project]
- 50% of chief residents have no clinical experience or training for a life-saving abortion. [Women’s Reproductive Rights Assistance Project]
- It is estimated that if *Roe* is overturned by the Supreme Court almost immediately at least half the states would outlaw the right to choose, including Michigan.
- Cecelia Fire Thunder, president of the historic Pine Ridge reservation, is leading the fight in South Dakota to overturn the new law.

DETROIT ACTION NETWORK FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

A diverse group of women including reproductive service providers, union women, and other activists committed to struggle for women’s reproductive rights. Join us!