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Women's Rights are Human Rights: The Story of Abortion Laws and the Women Affected

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Background Picture:



Title: Women's Rights are Human Rights: The Story of Abortion Laws and the Women Affected

Image next to Intro Story:



Intro Story:

This timeline was created by Allison Burk and Skylar Locke

The purpose of our project is to educate viewers on the history of abortion in the United States and the women affected by abortions. In the 21st century, the topic of abortion is over-politicalized and as a result, we tend to overlook the suffering and obstacles women encounter and are forced to overcome in these situations. We aim to de-stigmatize abortions with our project. Our unique abortion timeline includes three different components: the abortion laws and events beginning in the mid-1800s, the true, personal stories of women who are affected by these laws and abortions, and the different abortion resources available for women throughout time. Each topic appears as a different color circle on the bottom of the timeline to distinguish which story is what topic; red circles contain information on the laws and events, white circles are personal stories, and pink circles are resources. This timeline builds on the excellent abortion timelines already in existence including the “Abortion History Timeline” from the National Right to Life organization and the “Timeline of Attacks on Abortion” from the Planned Parenthood website. While these timelines do important work such as highlight major legislations and popular law cases, our timeline combines these insights in a way that we hope is accessible for students and readers interested in learning about abortions in a more complex and inclusive way.

Since ancient times:

Women have been aborting pregnancies throughout history. There are “records dating as far back as the third millennium BCE” that contains an abortion method created from natural herbs and other plant-based remedies. The earliest abortion description is written in 1500 BCE and “comes from the ancient Egyptian medical text known as the Ebers Papyrus” (Fox). There is evidence that shows the ancient Romans, Egyptians, and Persians practiced abortions during their time. Furthermore, “early Christian (ca 3rd century CE) writers allude to contraceptives and abortifacients generally disapprovingly, prohibiting abortion within the context condemning theft, covetousness, perjury, hypocrisy, and pride” (Fox). The use of different herbs and home

remedies were the only abortion methods and it was not until the late 19th century that surgical methods were being practiced.

Image:



Resources -

- The only resources women had for abortions in ancient times and continuing into the 1900s came from nature. The abortion methods women relied on were herbal methods from plants, flowers, etc. and handmade sharp tools created from rocks, tree sticks, etc.
- One popular herb was Pennyroyal, a small leaf plant belonging to the mint family. This herb “dates at least to the 1200s when manuscripts show herbalists preparing it, but the oil is extremely dangerous and modern herbalists avoid it” (fox).
- In the 11th century, “a medieval herbal reference called *De Viribus Herbarum* referred to herbs to induce abortions. Pennyroyal was among the herbs mentioned but so were catnip, rue. Sage, savory, cypress, and hellebore” (fox).
- Other methods to “induce abortions have included iron sulfates and chlorides, hyssop, dittany, opium, madder in beer, watercress seeds and even crushed ants” (fox).

Image of Pennyroyal:



Image next to every resource that does not have an image:



Early to mid 1800s - Abortion becomes an illegal practice.

- Abortions and other “surgical procedures, were extremely risky. Hospitals were not common, antiseptics were unknown, and even the most respected doctors had only primitive medical educations” (History of Abortion).
- Abortions were “considered a misdemeanor until "quickening," the time when a woman felt a fetus' movements” (Manning).
- Most people held strong religious viewpoints on abortion. “Religious ideas about sin held that a woman's "virtue" was ruined if she had sex outside of marriage” (Manning).

Image next to every law that does not have an image:



Introductory statement of the United States Constitution

Resources -

- In the 1800s, pills to induce an abortion were common and consisted of herbs such as “tansy oil, pennyroyal, rue, ergot, perhaps opium” which caused “dangerous side effects including “damage [to] internal organs, seizures, death” (Manning).
- Abortion procedures were either done by practitioners in secrecy and oftentimes, women would abort the fetus by themselves due to the lack of medical resources.
- Types of abortions methods consist of “shaking [the body] so hard that the embryo falls out,” “pounding down with brute force on [her] abdomen,” “bloodletting” - presumption was that bloodletting would induce menstruation and abort the fetus rather than merely make a pregnant woman much weaker,” “squating over a steaming pot of onions,” “stabbing [the inside] of [her] vagina with sharp objects, and a plethora of other unsafe home remedies (13 Old-Time Abortion Methods).

Personal Story:

In the 1830s, a female abortionist named Ann Lohman, otherwise known as Madame Restell, was working on the streets of New York City. She was an early advocate for reproductive rights and “advertised and sold” contraceptives as well as medications that induce a

miscariage. However, her advertisements “claimed the medicines would alleviate menstrual symptoms but were understood to mean that they'd end an unwanted pregnancy” (Manning). If her medications failed, Madame Restell would perform an abortion. According to Manning, “in 1844 Maria Bodine, a 26-year-old unmarried servant girl, found herself pregnant by her boss, Joseph Cook. He sent Maria to see the infamous Madame Restell” (Manning). Due to Maria being an unmarried pregnant girl, the high stigma surrounding abortions in the 1800s, and Mr. Cook’s refusal to help support the child, her only choice was to have an illegal abortion. Before Restell performed the abortion on Maria, she gave her a shot of whiskey since there were no antiseptics. After the abortion, Maria states that “[she] was in great agony all night” (Manning). Although this process was severely painful for Maria, Restells’s abortion saved Maria from the horrors of society. On March 13, 1847, three years after Maria’s abortion, “Madame Restell was arrested and tried on charges of having performed an abortion” (The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica). She was only held in prison for a year. In 1878, after the Comstock Act was released in 1873, Madame was charged again. On the morning of her court date where she would face her charges, “she committed suicide by cutting her throat” (The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica).

Image (Drawing of Madame):



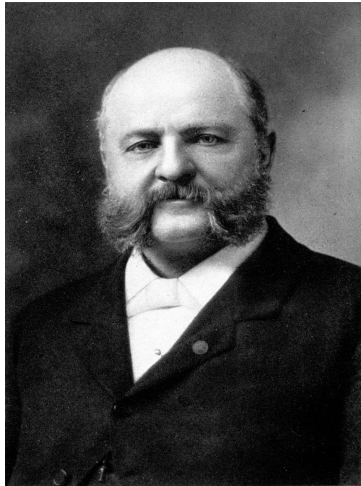
1821 - Connecticut passes first anti-abortion law in the United States that prohibits women from having an abortion after “quickening.”

1856 - Horatio Robinson Storer, M.D. (1830-1922), “a pro-life advocate establishes a national drive by the American Medical Association (AMA) to end legal abortion” (Chicago Tribune).

1860 - Twenty states have passed anti-abortion laws.

1873 - The Comstock Act, a federal legislation passed by Congress, “designed for the suppression of trade in and circulation of obscene literature and articles of immoral use,” prohibits women’s access to contraceptives and abortions (definitions.uslegal).

Image (Anthony Comstock):



1875 - On March 15, 1875, Susan B. Anthony, president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, delivered an anti-abortion speech called “Social Purity.” Her speech acted as a voice for many other anti-abortion feminists in the late 19th century (history.com).

Image (Susan B. Anthony):



1890 - The American Medical Association (AMA) advocates a written law that outlaws abortions unless the procedure is “necessary to save the life of the mother” (studentsforlife).

1920s - The birth control movement increased in popularity, led by Margaret Sanger, a birth control activist and sex educator.

Personal Story: The following story took place in 1932.

“As soon as I realized I was pregnant, I started looking for a solution to my problem. I knew I wanted an abortion. First I went to my own doctor. He confirmed that I was pregnant but told me he had no help to offer. My sources of information were usually men, not women. They gave me names and telephone numbers. I was getting really panicky as time was going by and I was going nowhere. Eventually I got to a nurse in East Liberty. I went to her house. She didn’t have an office or anything like that. I know she told me that the cost would be four hundred dollars and that I had to have the money in cash. Now, that was a lot of money in 1946. I went to my bank and cashed in my savings bonds, my savings account, and everything else I had. The day of my abortion, I went by myself. I remember a very small room with a couch. I was told to lie on the couch. That is where the abortion was done. Nothing was sterile. I lay down on the couch, and she put something up my vagina. I never saw what it was. It sort of hurt. Then she put some sort of packing in and gave me some medicine in a small container. They were dark brown pills. She never told me what the medicine was; she just said that I should take it when I got home. I left the same way I had come – alone and on foot. At that point, I didn’t have a feeling of fear. It was more like disgust: “This is an awful thing to have to go through.” But my overwhelming emotion was one of relief. I went home and took the medicine. I thought I might be okay, but I got terribly sick. I don’t know if it was the abortion or the medicine. In the middle of the night I went to the bathroom and suddenly began hemorrhaging. I start screaming. My mother rushes in. She called a doctor, and it was the same doctor I had originally gone to. As soon as she told him I was

bleeding, he knew immediately what was going on and sent an ambulance” (1932 Methods).

Image (Sanger):



1954 - Abortions are allowed in the states of Alabama based on the physical health of the mother.

Personal Story:

The following story is from a woman named Ann Rossiter who is currently 75 years old. She shares her abortion story to *The Telegraph* news nearly 53 years later.

“I had a backstreet abortion in the early 1960s, at the age of 22. It was illegal at the time, but I knew I couldn’t have the baby. The father was a Nigerian law student I loved, and he saw nothing wrong with a young girl having a baby, but I knew he was going back to his country and I couldn’t leave my life to go with him.

There was so much stigma then around unmarried mothers, and I didn’t know what my Irish family would make of me having a black baby. I knew immediately that I needed to have an abortion and cut myself off from him.

It was hard finding an abortionist but eventually I went to a woman who did it for a fiver - a weeks’ wages back then. She gave me a carbolic mix and the use of a douche, but it didn’t work, so I went back three times. Eventually I hemorrhaged and was taken to hospital. It was terrifying. The doctor brought the police to question me and though nothing came of it, I was so scared. They called me a silly girl.

At the time I was too numb to think of anything but immediate survival. But it later woke me up and made me realise what many hundreds of thousands of women went through. I became a pro-choice campaigner, and went on to have a daughter in 1977. I do regret the terrible conditions and the butchery of the procedure, but I have never once regretted having that abortion” (Sanghani).

Image Next to Every Personal Stories (that does not have a relating image):



1961 - The early abortion machine known as the “vacuum aspiration-style abortion” becomes popular all over Europe due to people considering this method to be safer than alternative methods.

Personal Story:

In 1962 Arizona, a woman named Sherri Finkbine was pregnant with her fifth child; however, her child was at severe risk to be born with extreme abnormalities. She was “using sleeping pills that her husband had brought back from a trip to Europe, and the pills, she found out, contained thalidomide” (Matt). During the 60s, thalidomide was found to cause birth defects and the loss of an unborn baby. She and her doctor decided she should proceed with a therapeutic abortion meaning an abortion induced because the pregnancy is harming the mother. However, abortions were illegal in Arizona and Finkbine was denied an abortion. Luckily, “[she] was finally able to obtain an abortion in Sweden on August 18, 1962. It was confirmed at the time of the abortion that her child would have been severely deformed” (Matt). Unfortunately, this option was only available to someone with significant financial resources. Who knows how many poor women were in similar situations but could not afford a trip to Sweden. Once Finkbine provided her story to the media with the hope that she could educate people on the effects of thalidomide, she became the face behind the fight to legalize abortions.

1963 - In San Francisco, CA, The Society for Human Abortion is established by Patricia Maginnis. SHA was a nonprofit educational organization that “challenges the law by openly providing information on abortion and contraception,” (Legal History of Abortion) however, the organization “was disbanded in 1975” (Society for Humane Abortion).

1965 - In Griswold v. Connecticut, “The Supreme Court ruled that a state's ban on the use of contraceptives violated the right to marital privacy.” Estelle Griswold, the Executive Director of Planned Parenthood League of Connecticut, was arrested for being an “accessory” providing women with illegal contraceptives (The Supreme Court).

1966 - Abortions are allowed in the state of Mississippi only for cases of rape and incest.

1967 -

- The first statewide right-to-life organization is founded: Virginia Society for Human Life.
- During this time, “abortion is classified as a felony in 49 states” (Chicago Tribune). John Arthur Love, the 36th Governor of Colorado, signs the first law to remove its abortion laws (Colorado). North Carolina, Oregon, and California passed similar laws as Colorado.
- People v. Belous: Dr. Leon Phillip Belous is “convicted for referring a woman to an illegal abortionist, which leads to a 1969 California Supreme Court decision in favor of a right to choose abortion. President Kennedy forms the Presidential Advisory Council on the Status of Women and calls for the repeal of abortion laws” (Legal History of Abortion).

1968 - Abortion becomes a highly controversial topic: people continue fighting for access to abortions and there is an increase in right-to-life- organizations across states. In order to organize the information people are receiving among states, “Lawrence Lader and Dr. Bernard Nathanson help found the National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws, now called NARAL Pro-Choice America” in October 1968 (Legal History of Abortion). The board of directors for this association grows over the next five years .Representatives within this diverse board vary from “doctors,” to “lawyers,” to “nurses,” to “homemakers,” and “educators” (Abortion History Timeline).

Personal Story:

The following story is from a retired civil servant named Mary Pimm.

“I had an abortion in the early 70s when I was 23, just a few years after legalisation. At the time I was in a relationship with a man who was black, and the

pregnancy was the result of contraceptive failure. The relationship was over by the time I found out about the pregnancy, I had no way of supporting a child, and I knew that if I went ahead, a mixed-race child was very unlikely to be adopted. I discovered I was pregnant fairly early on, but I was just under 12 weeks when I had the procedure and I have never regretted it” (Cochrane).

1970 - On April 11th, Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller signs a bill in the state of New York that “allows abortion on demand up to the 24th week of pregnancy” (Abortion History Timeline). This bill repeals that state’s previous law written in 1830 that prohibits abortions after “quickening” unless the physical health of the mother is at risk. Alaska, Hawaii, and Washington passed similar laws to the one Rockefeller signed.

1971 -

- On April 21, The Supreme Court rules that “law permitting abortion [is] only to preserve a woman’s life or “health.” However, the Court makes it clear that by “health” it means “psychological and physical well-being,” effectively allowing abortion for any reason” This is decided due to United States v. Dr. Milan Vuitch case (Abortion History Timeline).
- The Comstock Act is revoked.
- Under certain circumstance, abortion is allowed in 14 states.

1972 - The Griswold act is extended to unmarried couples as well as married. American Law Institute (an independent organization in the U.S. that works on improving the law) is enforced in 13 states. There are four states in the U.S that allow abortion on demand (women have the right to an abortion at their request). There are 31 states that allow for abortion only if it will save the mother’s life.

1973 -

- On January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court of the United States made the decision to legalize abortions across states in the Roe v. Wade law case. This decision “made it possible for women to get safe, legal abortions from well-trained medical practitioners” (History of Abortion). This ruling is based on a woman's right to privacy.
- On the same day, “Doe v. Bolton defines “health” to mean “all factors” that affect the woman, including “physician, emotional, psychological, familial, and the woman’s age” (Abortion History Timeline).
- November 1, “The first issue of *National Right to Life News* is published” (Abortion History Timeline).

Image:



1974 -

- Jan. 22: In Washington D.C., the first March for Life, an anti-abortion annual rally, is held.
- “Federally funded research using fetal tissue is prohibited through the National Science Foundation Authorization Act” (Chicago Tribune).

Image:



1975 -

- Feb. 15: “Boston abortionist Kenneth C. Edelin is found guilty of manslaughter for the death of an unborn child” (Abortion History Timeline). This ruling would be overturned the following year when the Massachusetts Superior Judicial Court determined it is only manslaughter if, outside of the mother’s body, the baby is alive.
- Mar. 10: Senator James L. Buckley and Senator Jesse Helms introduce the Human Life Amendment to the U.S. Senate. The “human life amendment refers to a constitutional amendment establishing a legal definition of a person that includes unborn children. It

makes killing of an unborn child a crime punishable under existing murder laws” (US Legal, Inc. “Human).

1976 -

- Apr. 28: Human Life Amendment receives 40 votes off of a “test vote” (Abortion History Timeline). However, a constitutional amendment needs 60 votes -- two-thirds of the senators.
- June 28: The U.S. House approves Hyde’s Amendment (sponsored by Rep. Henry Hyde). This amendment “prohibits Medicaid funding of abortions with narrow exceptions” (Abortion History Timeline).
- July 1: “In *Planned Parenthood of Central Missouri v. Danforth*, the court rejected a parental consent requirement and decided that (married) fathers had no rights in the abortion decision. Furthermore, the Court struck down Missouri’s effort to ban the saline amniocentesis abortion procedure” (Abortion History Timeline).
- Dec 17: Edelin’s conviction (manslaughter) is overturned at Massachusetts Superior Judicial Court. It is only manslaughter if, outside of the mother’s body, the baby is alive.

1977 - June 20: There is no federal or state obligation to fund public assistance programs for abortion regardless of the expenses of childbirth whether its for an indigent mother or medically necessary. This was put into place by the Supreme Court due to *Maier v. Roe*, *Beal v. Doe*, and *Poelker v. Doe* (Abortion History Timeline).

1979 -

- Parental consent is mandated.
- It is found unconstitutional to perform an abortion in the hospital after the first trimester.

1980 -

- June 30: “In *Harris v. McRae*, the U.S. Supreme Court upholds the Hyde Amendment, ruling that there is no constitutional right for women to receive abortions at public expense” (nrlc).

Personal Story: The following story is from Edith G. Tolchin in an article produced by *Bustle*.

On Friday, February 15, 1980, [my partner] and I headed to the old Jewish Memorial Hospital in upper Manhattan where my doctor met us; and, while I was terrified of needles, I went through with the abortion," Edith G. Tolchin, author of *Fanny on Fire*, tells *Bustle*. Fortunately, I felt absolutely nothing. I was asleep during the procedure and had no pain afterwards, though I had no idea I'd be bleeding as if I had my period. Of course back then we had no internet and, unless

one went to the library beforehand — which I hadn't thought of doing — I had no idea of what to expect afterwards. I just took a sick day from work that Friday... and I returned to work the following week a bit empty emotionally, but none the worse for the wear. As I look back, it was a time before abortion center bombings, though I didn't pay much attention to those events back then. It just seemed like a no muss-no fuss procedure; a convenience. I am a feminist and have always been. I was young when the stars of our movement, Betty Friedan, Gloria Steinem, Sheila Michaels and Sonia Pressman—and all the other “Ms. Crusaders”— set the groundwork for our lives. I am satisfied with my decision and I did go on to have two children."

1981 -

- Minors can now petition court for no parental permission when it comes to abortions (Bellotti vs. Baird).

1982 - Mar. 10: “The Senate Judiciary Committee approves the Hatch Amendment, which would give the states and Congress joint authority to regulate abortion” (nrlc).

1983 - June 15: “In *Akron v. Akron Center for Reproductive Health*, the U.S. Supreme Court strikes down state requirements that abortions performed after the first trimester be done in a hospital, women’s right to know laws, and waiting periods after information is provided to the woman seeking abortion before she can consent to an abortion. However, the Court rules that states may insist that only licensed physicians perform abortions.” (Abortion History Timeline)

1984 - Both the White House and Congress are pro-life.”Congress works to pass a Human Life Amendment and Human Life Bill (in case the amendment was rejected by the states” (studentsforlife).

Image of White House:



1985 - In June, a pro-life organization called National Teens For Life is founded.

1986 - “Thornburgh v. American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists invalidates Pennsylvania statute that required informed consent and other abortion regulations” (studentsforlife).

1987 -

- July 30th: President Ronald Reagan “announces at a meeting of pro-life activists that “a program which does provide counseling and referral for abortion services as a method of family planning will not be eligible for Title 10 funds.” August 25th: “President Reagan appoints a federal task force to encourage adoption as an alternative to abortion.” On October 23rd: the “nomination of pro-life Judge Robert Bork to the U.S. Supreme Court is rejected by the U.S. Senate, 58-42. Pro-abortion groups conducted a fierce campaign, which resulted in his defeat. This seat ultimately went to Anthony Kennedy, who voted to reaffirm the core holdings of Roe in 1992” (Abortion History Timeline).

Image of Reagan:



1989 - A law in the state of Washington titled “Webster vs. Reproductive Health Services” “[declares] that "life begins at conception"; and barring the use of public facilities for abortions is found unconstitutional” (chicagotribune).

1990 - “Hodgson v. Minnesota invalidates Minnesota requirement for two-parent notification for minors. Ohio v. Akron Center for Reproductive Health (Akron II) upholds Ohio statute requiring a minor to notify one parent or obtain a judicial waiver” (studentsforlife).

Personal Story: The following story was submitted anonoumsly to the website After Abortion Stories:

“It was 1990 and I was 20 years old. I had been in a relationship with my "then boyfriend" for a year. As luck would have it, I found out that I was pregnant as our relationship was ending. He was starting to see another girl, and told everyone that the baby was not his, despite the fact that we both knew I had been faithful to him throughout the relationship. I had always dreamed of having children, but there was no way that I could support a child and give them the life they deserved working as a receptionist and waitressing. There was no way I could tell my family... only two close friends knew what I was going through. As devastating a decision as it was, I chose to end the pregnancy. To this day, my memories of the procedure are foggy, probably blocked out by my brain as a coping mechanism.

About 3 months after the abortion, I met a wonderful guy. I was honest and told him about the abortion shortly after we met. He never mentioned it or held it against me. We fell in love and married 4 years later. Today, in 2014, we have been married 20 years and have 3 beautiful, healthy children.

My advice to any girl or woman facing the decision of having an abortion is that it is your body and your right to decide. It is never easy, but there are many of us who have gone through it, and we are here to hold your hand and tell you it will be OK. Life will go on, and time does heal wounds. You won't ever forget, but you will be stronger for having survived.”

1991 -

- May 23: In *Rust v. Sullivan*, the U.S. Supreme Court upholds the Bush Administration’s regulations that prohibit routine counseling and referral for abortion in 4,000 clinics that receive federal Title Ten family planning funds. [In November, President Bush vetoes a \$205 billion health and human services appropriations bill because it includes a provision that would have blocked enforcement of the pro-life regulations; the veto is sustained by a 12-vote margin.]
- June 3: In a letter to House Speaker Thomas Foley, President Bush vows, any legislation that weakens current law or existing regulations” pertaining to abortion will be vetoed.
- June 18: The Louisiana legislature overrides Gov. Buddy Romer’s veto of a law protecting unborn children from abortion in all cases other than when the life of the mother is at stake or in cases of rape or incest. (See also Mar. 8, 1993.)
- July 1: President Bush nominates pro-life Judge Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court. Thomas is confirmed to the Supreme Court by a Senate vote of 52-48.
- Oct. 25: Ana Rosa Rodriguez survives a third-trimester abortion attempt by New York City abortionist Abu Hayat, but is born with one arm severed at the shoulder. (See also Feb. 22, 1993.)
- Nov.: Threat of Bush veto maintains the Reagan-era ban on the performance of abortion on U.S. military bases, except to save the mother’s life.

1992 -

- Feb.: “Bush Administration threatens to veto legislation that would require federal funding of research that encourages or depends on abortion”.
- Mar. 5: The Freedom of Choice act is not accepted by President Bush. He states “[it] will not become law as long as I am President of the United States.”
- June 29: *Roe v. Wade* is modified in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. U.S. Supreme Court discarded the trimester scheme while still upholding certain restrictions on abortion. Additionally, an “undue burden” test of abortion laws have been adopted requiring “opponents of an abortion regulation to prove the provision would create an “undue burden” on a woman’s right to abortion in order for it to be declared unconstitutional.”

- July 13: “The U.S. House sustain[ed] President Bush’s veto of a bill to require federal funding for transplanting tissue taken from aborted babies by a narrow 14-vote margin.”
- Sept. 13: Abortionist Martin Haskell introduces people to “partial-birth abortion” at a National Abortion Foundation seminar. This is a late-term abortion methods performed with the "dilation and evacuation.” (nrlc)
- Nov. 3: Pro-abortionists Governor Bill Clinton and Senator Al Gore win the election.. More positive, pro-abortion steps could be taken these next few years.

Image of Bush



1993 -

- Jan. 22: Years of pro-life progress are reversed by President Clinton through issuing five executive orders. These issues include: 1) “reversing Title 10 regulations banning abortion referral by federal employees,” 2) “repealing the Mexico City Policy restricting federal funding of international organizations that work to reverse countries’ abortion laws,” 3) “negating the ban on funding for fetal tissue transplants,” 4) “ordering military hospitals to perform abortions,” and 5) “asking the FDA to “review” the import ban on RU 486.”
- Feb. 22: “Abortionist Abu Hayat is convicted of assault and illegal abortion for his attempt to kill Ana Rosa Rodriguez by abortion.”
- Mar. 8: Louisiana’s Protective Abortion Law is struck down after the U.S. Supreme Court refuses the lower court’s appeal.
- Apr. 14: News of possible abortion coverage in the Clinton’s healthcare plan.
- May 12: Regardless of the executive order given by President Clinton the staff at the Navy, Air Force, and U.S. Army European hospitals are unwilling to perform abortions.
- June 30: Hyde Amendment is renewed by the U.S. House

- Freedom of Choice Act is defeated. This act was “a proposed federal statute to invalidate even the narrow types of state abortion regulations permitted by the Supreme Court.”
- Aug.: Rachelle Shelley Shannon served 11 years in prison after shooting Dr. George Tiller in the arm as he was leaving a Wichita (Kansas) clinic.
- Nov. 22: “The Clinton Administration announces that the International Planned Parenthood Federation will receive \$75 million over the next five years.”
- Dec. 28: The Medicaid director of every state received a letter from the Clinton Administration. The letter orders state laws to change so that payments for abortions due to rape or incest are covered. Dr. David Gunn is shot by Michael Griffin, abortion protestor, outside of a Pensacola (Florida) clinic. Griffin serves life in prison.

1994 -

- Jan.: Non-physicians are beginning to be trained to perform abortions. The first national doctors organization to endorse this is The American Council of Obstetricians and Gynecologists' Executive Board.
- Sept. 26: The Clinton Health Care Plan ends up not being introduced in the U.S. Senate. This plan would have forced a national health system upon all Americans, but would also “ration lifesaving care and pay for abortion on demand.”
(Abortion History Timeline)

1995 -

- Aug. 22: “Abortionist David Benjamin is convicted of second-degree murder in the botched-abortion death of Guadalupe Negron. He is the first New York abortionist to be convicted of murder.”
- Nov. 1: Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act is passed by the U.S. House. Since *Roe v. Wade*, this is the first federal bill to ban one type of abortion.
- Dec. 7: Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act is now passed by the U.S. Senate as well.

1996 - “The abortion debate shifts to state bans on “partial-birth abortions”. 104th Congress passes HR 1833, a bill to outlaw such procedures; President Clinton vetoes the bill.” (Abortion History Timeline)

1997 - An Atlanta abortion clinic is left in ruins after a bomb is let off outside of the building complex. (Abortion History Timeline)

1998 -

- Feb. 12: The Child Custody Protection Act is introduced into the U.S. Senate by Senator Spencer Abrahams. This Act it would be “illegal for adults to transport minors across state lines for an abortion if that action would circumvent the parental involvement law of a state.” (Abortion History Timeline)
- Apr. 1: The Child Custody Protection Act is introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives by Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen.

Personal Story: The following story is from a girl in the Philippines name Mia -- found in the *New York Times*

“It was 1998, and I was 20 years old. I found out I was pregnant on the eve of Father’s Day. I greeted my boyfriend the next day with a happy Father’s Day card. He was happy.

The next day I went to have an ultrasound. I found out that I was two months pregnant. I was dumbstruck. I had been seeing my boyfriend since March, but we only had sex in May. The baby wasn’t his.

When he got home that evening, it was raining hard, the power was out, yet I decided to tell him. He was understandably upset. After some time, he said that the choice was mine. I decided to get an abortion.

Abortion is not legal in my country, so the abortion was in secret. The abortionist charged us 10,000 pesos (roughly \$500, adjusted for inflation), a thousand for every week I was along — a steep sum for a young couple.

The night of the abortion, my boyfriend dropped me at a designated spot. A boy, about 12, met me, and we walked a few minutes until we reached a clapboard house in one of the poorer parts of the city.

The “abortionista” brought me to a dimly lit room. She had instructed me to bring a nightgown. I was told to change into it. She then brought some pills for me to take and a glass of water. This was sometime around 8 p.m. She then pointed to the bed and told me to sleep until the time came.

At about midnight I woke up to pain from contractions. I called out for the abortionist, and she immediately came. The pain escalated fast, up to the point where she instructed me to push, and so I did. It was over quickly.

She asked if I wanted to know the sex of the baby. I said, “Hindi.” (No.) She still answered that it was a boy, just in case my boyfriend would like to know.

She proceeded to clean me, then said it was time for me to go. So in the wee hours of the morning, I walked back to the roadside with the same boy. My boyfriend was waiting, and we went home.

The next day, my breasts started leaking colostrum. I didn’t know what to do. I applied warm compresses, not knowing this would enhance the milk production.

I ended up with a severe case of mastitis requiring an operation. I had to tell my surgeon what happened, but I begged him not to tell my parents. On paper, it appeared I just had an infection.

Eventually, I withdrew from law school because I had to undergo surgery for the infection. I instead took up nursing.

Until now, my loved ones do not know of the abortion. It is still taboo to talk about. Do I regret having done it? No. I wasn’t ready to be a mother, and of a child not born out of love.”

1999 - “The Senate and House passed the 1997 version of the abortion ban, but the bill died at the end of the Congressional session” (studentsforlife).

2000 -

- The states of Massachusetts and Montana implement abortion laws that further restrict a woman's ability to have an abortion.
- Other states continue to add further law restrictions “such as parental notification, waiting periods, and ultrasound requirements” (studentsforlife).
- An early abortion drug called mifepristone is approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

Image of mifepristone



Personal Story:

The following story is from a student named Rachel Gasston attending Oxford University.

“I had an abortion in 2002, when I was 26 years old and studying for extra A-levels. I was all set to attend university, and had been offered a conditional place at Oxford, so I was working really hard.

Living with my parents, I had been feeling very ill, and thought that it must just be a general malaise. I mentioned it to my mother though, and she asked whether I could be pregnant. I was pretty shocked, as I had only been seeing my boyfriend for about three months, and, even at that stage, it wasn't a great relationship.

After a couple of pregnancy tests, though, the doctor confirmed that my mother had been right. I remember immediately thinking, "I'm not doing this." I was absolutely sure. That was weird, because I had actually been quite anti-abortion before. I knew one woman who had had an abortion and I had been quite disapproving. As soon as I knew that I was pregnant, though, my only thought was that this had to be over as soon as possible.

Setting up the abortion was fairly straightforward and I had a surgical procedure at a Marie Stopes clinic (paid for by the NHS) at eight weeks pregnant. I was fully conscious throughout - I think I was offered a general anaesthetic, but I didn't want an overnight stay - and I have to say I was shocked by how violent the procedure was. It wasn't painful, but I was taken aback at just how vigorous the doctor was.

I am from South Africa and there it is illegal to have an abortion. Even now, when I think about it, all these years later, I am overcome with relief and gratitude that I live in a country where it is my decision - not the state - whether I have children or not.

In fact, I actually think that the abortion saved my life. If I hadn't had the option of a legal termination, I would have tried to do it myself, and, if that hadn't worked and hadn't killed me, I'm fairly certain I would have killed myself" (theguardian).

2003 - President George W. Bush signs a law that prohibits an abortion to be performed during the late-term of pregnancy, when the fetus is nearly full grown. This law is called the "partial-birth ban".

2004 - New York, California, and Nebraska decide that the "partial-birth ban" is unconstitutional.

2006 - "Ayotte v. Planned Parenthood of Northern New England invalidates New Hampshire's parental notice law in its entirety, and reminds the case for future consideration. NOW (National Organization for Women) v. Scheidler, after 21 years of litigation, affirms the free speech of pro-life activists and sidewalk counselors, ruling against NOW's claim that all pro-lifers were responsible for the criminal activity of a few people. SFLA hires its first full-time staff and launches its Pro-Life Field Program, leading to 330 new pro-life student organizations in 4 year" (studentforlife).

2007 - "The U.S. Supreme Court upholds the federal "partial-birth abortion" ban (passed in 1993) in *Gonzales v. Carhart*. This ban restricts one type of late-term abortion (D&X), forcing abortionists to find other methods of aborting older unborn babies. The first nationwide *40 Days for Life* campaign launches. This semi-annual grassroots effort has succeeded in mobilizing new pro-life activists and shutting down abortion facilities through continual presence and prayer" (studentforlife).

2009 - On May 31st, an abortion provider known as Dr. George Tiller is associated in a Kansas church. Dr. Tiller's murderer "has ties to Operation Rescue, a militant anti-abortion group that had run a multi-decade harassment campaign against Dr. Tiller" (plannedparenthood).

2010 - On November 2th, "anti-abortion politicians win election to Congress" (plannedparenthood).

2011 - On June 6th in Wisconsin, Governor Scott Walker agrees to a budget on Planned Parenthood's. This budget "defunds" the Planned Parenthood's in Wisconsin. Within two years, five health centers are forced to close.

2012 - 19 U.S states legislate 43 new anti-abortion laws. One major anti-abortion law that is passed is the TRAP law which is “designed to punish health-care providers who serve people seeking abortion (plannedparenthood).

2013 -

- On April 26, 2013, “Republican members of Congress introduce another nationwide 20-week abortion ban bill” (plannedparenthood).
- In Texas, politicians enact a sweeping TRAP (Targeted Regulation of Abortion Provider) law and within the next 3 years, half of the abortion providers in Texas close.
- Within this year, 22 states put into law 70 new abortion restrictions. The states of Texas, North Dakota, Arkansas, and North Carolina all count for 26 of the 70 restrictions.
- A 20-week abortion ban bill is nationally introduced by Republican members of Congress.

Personal Story:

The following story is from a podcast titled “The Abortion Diary” which gives women the opportunity to share and narrate their own personal abortion stories in a safe and supportive place where people listen without political judgments and with more empathy.

- The creator of this project is Dr. Melissa Madera and her inspiration for this podcast began when she shared her personal abortion story. She posted the following on November 23, 2013. “I didn’t share my abortion story until I was thirty years old. I just didn’t think I could tell anyone. I couldn’t talk to my family and I was afraid that I would feel judged by other people. For years I pushed the memory of my abortion to the back of my mind, but occasionally it would resurface suddenly and then go away. It usually resurfaced around my family. We pretended like it never happened. The worst thing about my experience was the secrecy and the weight of it. It made me feel so small. The culture of shame and stigma in our society required me to hide my abortion experience. I didn’t know people who had had abortions, but I knew what people thought about them. Later on, I realized that I knew many people who had had abortions, but they were also afraid of the stigma and judgment. Instead of creating a network of support and understanding, we remained complicit in the shaming and marginalization of each other. If I had only known I had someone else with a similar experience to talk to I don’t think the load would have been so heavy”.
- Statement from the creator: “As someone who’s had an abortion and, again, spoken with over 200 people who have as well, I can assure you of this: When we have an abortion, we are making the right decision for ourselves, our bodies, our families, our communities, and our futures. We will not change our minds or back down from what we know is right for us because of your archaic and reprehensible laws. The idea that we

should take note from politicians about how to navigate our bodies is one that we as a community will not only denounce, but also continue to reject and resist. Abortion is a personal choice. Period. It is not up for political debate.” – Melissa Madera”

2014 - By the end of the year, 15 states have created 26 new abortion restrictions since 2013. Overall, “states have adopted 231 new abortion restrictions since the 2010 midterm elections swept abortion opponents into power in state capitals across the country” (plannedparenthood).

2015 -

- “Anti-abortion presidential candidates use deceptive anti-abortion videos to justify calls to “defund” Planned Parenthood. During a Republican primary debate on Sept. 16, candidate Carly Fiorina urges others to watch discredited, inflammatory footage doctored to appear to have come from Planned Parenthood health centers” (plannedparenthood).
- Within this year, 17 states have created 57 new abortion restrictions. Furthermore, “states adopted nearly as many abortion restrictions during the last five years as during the entire previous 15 years” (plannedparenthood).

2016 -

- “President Obama nominates appellate judge Merrick Garland to succeed Scalia ... but in an unprecedented step, anti-abortion Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell refuses to start the confirmation process — blocking President Obama from filling the vacancy” (plannedparenthood).
- On October 19th, President Trump “promises to nominate judges who would “automatically” overturn Roe v. Wade” (plannedparenthood).

2017 - “Anti-abortion legislative efforts soar in the states

Nineteen states adopt 63 new restrictions on abortion rights and access — the largest number of abortion restrictions enacted in a calendar year since 2013” (plannedparenthood).

2018 - “Federal appeals court upholds a Louisiana TRAP law. In a sharp apparent departure from the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2016 decision in Whole Woman’s v. Hellerstedt, appeals judges hold that forcing Louisiana abortion providers to obtain hospital admitting privileges would not impose an undue burden on abortion access — even though the law, if enforced, could wipe out access to abortion in the state except at one New Orleans health center” (plannedparenthood).

2019 - Currently, Alabama holds the most “restrictive” law that “bans abortion at any stage of pregnancy, including in cases of rape and incest,” however, “exceptions would be allowed if the pregnant female’s health is endangered or if there is a fetal abnormality that would lead to death

soon after birth” (A Guide to Recent State Abortion Laws). This law was put into act on May 15, 2019. Other states such as Kentucky, Louisiana, and Ohio have passed the “heartbeat” law or “fetal heartbeat” law that states a woman cannot receive an abortion after the fetus has a heartbeat which is roughly around 6 weeks. Other states that have restrictions on abortions and the time a woman is allowed to have an abortion are Arkansas, Georgia, Mississippi, Missouri, Illinois, Maine, Nevada, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont. The “women in [these] affected states are preparing for a world where they could be punished simply for making a medical decision about their body” (Aswell).

Personal Story: The following story was submitted anonymously on May 17, 2019 to my abortion my life website.

“I am 23 years old. I had my abortion on March 4th, 2019. I've kept it to myself until this point, but with restrictions tightening and access to safe abortions lessening, I need to tell my story to give an outlet to the rage I feel. Let me be so clear: I had a dilation and extraction procedure, and the abortion itself was the easiest part. The hard part was actually being able to get the abortion. After missing my period at the end of January, I took a test. Positive. I had no idea what to do. I called the nearest Planned Parenthood and was informed I would have to drive to their clinic three hours away to receive the care I needed, and the soonest appointment I could get was March 4th, almost a month out. Not only that, but without insurance covering the procedure (most insurance companies do not), I would have to pay almost \$800 out-of-pocket for the whole thing. My entire family and support network lives halfway across the country. I had just moved to this new area, away from the father of the baby (for good reason). For somebody living month-to-month - and with nobody to ask for help - I was panicked. I didn't have the financial cushion to obtain the abortion, forget raising a child.

So, I did what seemed to be my only option: I started working at a nearby strip club as a dancer. Every night I wasn't working at my full-time job, I was dancing. Throughout that month, I raised exactly enough money to have the procedure. That month I was constantly exhausted and constantly nauseous. By the time I made it to the clinic for my procedure and they gave me an ultrasound. I was 10 weeks pregnant. Long past the "6 week" mark that multiple states have now passed. Regardless of the fact that I'd taken the test as soon as I'd missed my period; regardless of the fact that I'd made an appointment for as soon as I possibly could (and even if I could've had the procedure sooner, I wouldn't have been able to afford it until the day I had my procedure anyways). Now I find myself scrolling through the comment sections every time I see headlines announcing another state has placed more restrictions, or flat-out bans, on abortions, and I get so angry I cry. So many people who have never had to have an abortion are now

forming opinions of their own on how/when/why a woman should have an abortion. I've seen many people saying '6 to 10 weeks should be the cut off;' 'women should be allowed abortions only if rape or incest is involved;' 'women should be allowed to have an abortion only if the pregnancy is life-threatening;' and all of that makes me so angry it brings tears to my eyes.

People don't understand there are already SO MANY restrictions on abortion! I had to wait a month. I had to talk to several doctors on the phone before the procedure. I had to travel 150 miles, pay 800 dollars out of pocket, have an ultrasound, and reassure the doctors that this was my choice, I hadn't been pressured, and that I was absolutely, positively sure this was what I wanted to do. The abortion was well-worth it. The procedure itself took less than 5 minutes from when I got onto the table to when it was complete. It was not nearly as painful as I had anticipated it being. I felt nothing but a huge wave of relief when I realized that this heavy weight had been lifted from my shoulders. Now, instead of saving for a child I wasn't prepared to have, with somebody who wouldn't have supported me or my child, I can save to finish my education so that in a few years I can be in a situation where I actually can afford a baby. I'll conclude with this: during that month between finding out and having the abortion, I found myself on this website often. I read so many stories about how and why other women decided to have their abortions and they gave me courage. To any woman out there who freshly peed on the stick and know you want to have an abortion but have no idea what to do: don't be scared. You are resilient and you will do what you have to do to make it happen. I believe in all of us.” - Anonymous

Resources -

Planned Parenthood's are clinics that provide a safe, in-clinic abortion for women. The type of procedure done depends on how far along a woman is during the pregnancy. The most common type of procedure is the suction abortion (also known as the vacuum aspiration) where a certified doctor will gently use a suction tool to empty the uterus. This method is used "until about 14-16 weeks after your last period" (Parenthood, Planned "In-Clinic"). Another type of procedure that is performed 16 weeks or longer from a woman's last period is the Dilation and Evacuation which uses a suction and other medical tools to empty the uterus. The in-clinic abortions are effective, much safer than using at home methods, and "work more than 99 out of every 100 times" (Parenthood, Planned "In-Clinic").

The abortion pill is a combination of two different medicines. The first pill a woman takes is mifepristone. Then, she takes the second pill called misoprostol. Sometimes a doctor will provide a woman with antibiotics on top of the abortion pill as a precautionary action to prevent any infections.

Both in-clinic abortions and medication abortions can be performed at any Planned Parenthood. There are other small abortion clinics throughout the U.S. that are not apart of Planned Parenthood. Factors that influence when and where women can receive an abortion are a woman's health care provider, the clinic's health laws, and the state she lives in.

Other popular abortion resources to help find a clinic to perform an abortion are "The National Abortion Federation: Call 1-877-257-0012 for referrals to member clinics in the United States," "Women Help Women: Using Abortion Pills: Provides information and support on self-managed/DIY abortions to women in the United States," and "Women on Web: Information on how to get an abortion for women in countries where abortion is restricted" (OBOS).

There are two major organizations that can help a woman with the financial aspect of an abortion. The first organization is The National Network of Abortion Funds and the second organization is The National Abortion Federation.

The following list of resources provide emotional support for women who have had an abortion or are considering having an abortion. It is important to keep in mind that although there are only a few resources listed below, there are many resources that are not listed that provide support for women during their abortions.

All Options is a toll free talkline that offers support and counseling to women. The talkline can be reached at 1-888-493-0092 and the hours of operation are "Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 1 a.m. EST; Friday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m" (OBOS).

The Abortion Diary podcast and blog where women can share their abortion stories in a non-political environment. (theabortiondiary.com)

Pregnancy Options is an online resource that provides women with free downloads such as the "Pregnancy Options Workbook" and "A Guide to Emotional and Spiritual Resolution After an Abortion."

Exhale is a confidential talkline that accepts calls or texts and provides a space where a woman or people close to her such as a boyfriend, family members, etc. can process their feelings. The call line can be reached at 866-4-EXHALE and the text line can be reached at 617-749-2948.

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