



Members of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform,

My name is Kristan Hawkins, and I'm the President of Students for Life of America and Students for Life Action. On behalf of our nearly 1,300 active groups and of the more than 127,000 student activists we've trained across the nation, I would like to express our strong support for overturning *Roe v. Wade* and returning the right to legislate abortion back to the states.

In 1973, abortion extremists manipulated the Supreme Court to contort the U.S. Constitution to fit their narrative, inventing the "right to abortion" written somewhere in invisible ink. In doing so, the government unjustly seized the states' right to establish laws on abortion, as what is not explicitly stated in the Constitution belongs to the states. **This tragic mistake sentenced more than 62 million preborn children to horrific and violent deaths.**

States like Mississippi and Texas have challenged the antiquated *Roe v. Wade* ruling because modern science tells us that life begins at conception – when unique human DNA that will never be replicated again is created. Six weeks later, the preborn child's heart beats – a common indication of life for people outside of the womb. We also know that at 20 weeks gestation – possibly sooner – a preborn baby feels pain. Imagine the suffering a preborn baby endures as he or she is brutally dismembered in the womb. Try to fathom the pain a child feels when they are injected with a drug that causes death from cardiac arrest. These are the methods in which abortion is performed at 20 weeks on.

To be clear, the majority of Americans do not support what *Roe v. Wade* actually justifies – abortion on-demand for any reason through all nine months of pregnancy. In fact, **only 13% of Americans support abortion in the third trimester**, according to a [2018 Gallup poll](#). This means that 87% of Americans are in favor of significant restrictions on abortion.

The *Women's Health Protection Act*, which would codify and unnecessarily expand *Roe v. Wade*, is a ridiculously radical bill that puts both mothers and their children in significant danger. **State laws that limit and regulate abortion are essential safeguards that protect women from dangerous abortionists** like [Kermit Gosnell](#), who recklessly harmed and killed women during abortion procedures. Additionally, basic health and safety requirements, informed consent laws, and late-term abortion bans are popular policies that protect women and empower them to make a well-informed decision.

There is no such thing as a safe abortion. Abortions are serious and unnatural procedures that always kill an innocent preborn child and too often harms the mother physically and/or psychologically. Physical effects of abortion may include persistent bleeding, organ damage, fertility issues, breast cancer, infection, and even death. Women who've had an abortion have also experienced grief and regret, substance abuse, isolation, relationship issues, insomnia, nightmares, anxiety, depression, and even suicide.

Expanding unsafe access to abortion is not pro-women or pro-science. It only benefits the predatory abortion industry, which profits from increased abortions. Abortion advocates claim abortion is a "legitimate medical procedure," while advocating for the *eradication* of every basic health and safety standard expected of the medical industry. Abortion facilities have already been exposed for aiding sexual predators, manipulating and forcing women into having

abortions, providing medical services performed by unqualified staff, and disregarding basic sanitary standards. Clearly, **the abortion industry needs more government oversight, not less.**

As elected officials, you've been entrusted with the responsibility to defend the will, rights, and safety of the American people. If you care about women, you will fight for them to be well-informed about the realities of abortion and protected from the negative side effects.

Those of you who voted in favor of the deceptively titled *Women's Health "Protection" Act*, you made your intentions clear. You are abortion extremists. You do not serve the American people – you worship at the altar of the abortion lobby. We implore you to stop lying to the American people about the effects of abortion and demeaning women by asserting they cannot thrive without killing their children. We deserve better than abortion, and we deserve to be adequately represented and supported by our legislators.

Make no mistake, the future is anti-abortion. This generation of pro-life students, activists, and voters are determined to see *Roe v. Wade* overturned in their lifetime – with or without your help.

Thank you,

Kristan Hawkins