**Abortion**

**When applying for a promotion in the Justice Department in 1985, then-government attorney Samuel Alito spoke of his staunch opposition to abortion and desire to work to overturn Roe v. Wade. In a cover letter to the attorney general, he wrote that as a “life-long registered Republican” he was “particularly proud” of his work on cases arguing “that the Constitution does not protect a right to an abortion.” *(The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 20, 2022)***

**The U.S. Supreme Court is on the verge of overturning Roe v. Wade, even though 70 percent of Americans support the 1973 ruling. *(The Week magazine, May 20, 2022)***

**A recent University of Virginia analysis projected that backlash to overturning Roe could boost Democrats in swing states such as Michigan, Georgia, and Pennsylvania. Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker predicted “a tsunami of activism” among Democratic voters, and Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) said women would vote this fall in “numbers we’ve never seen before.” *(The Week magazine, May 13, 2022)***

**The abortion rate among Black women in 2019 was nearly quadruple the rate among white women and more than double that of Hispanic women. That disparity, said the Guttmacher Institute, is largely the result of a lack of access to and effective use of contraception. About half of Black Americans live in Southern states, which will soon ban or severely limit abortion. *(The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 8/July 15, 2022)***

**This “catastrophic” ruling will primarily affect poor women of color, who may lack the means to go to other states where abortion remains legal, said Dahlia Lithwick in Slate. Its blatant right-wing partisanship also destroys what was left of public confidence in “the Supreme Court’s legitimacy.” *(The Week magazine, May 13, 2022)***

**A change of heart on abortion: You’d never know it by reading the mainstream media, but America’s view on abortion have undergone a fundamental shift, said William McGurn. A recent Gallup survey found that 50 percent of our citizens now consider abortion “morally wrong,” as opposed to 38 percent who find it “morally acceptable.” Slightly more Americans consider themselves “pro-life than “pro-choice” (47 percent to 45 percent). Make no mistake: Most Americans still do not want Roe v. Wade overturned or abortion to become illegal in all circumstances. But the data clearly suggests that Americans see abortion “as an evil, while also regarding it, in certain circumstances, as a necessary evil,” Gallup found that a majority of people favor legal restrictions on abortion “that go way beyond current law,” making it rare indeed. This political reality is being ignored by the pro-choice orthodoxy that dominates the media, film and TV industries, and academia, which stubbornly clings to the notion that only a handful of Christian evangelicals have “strong moral qualms” about terminating life in the womb. “Who’s really out of touch with the American people here?” *(The Week magazine, June 11, 2010)***

**How many abortion providers closed: The number of independent abortion clinics in the U.S. has dropped by a third in recent years, from 510 in 2012 to 337 late last year. In at least 16 states, 95 percent of counties lack an abortion clinic; Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Mississippi have only one remaining abortion clinic each. *(The Week magazine, September 24, 2021)***

**The number of women crossing state lines to obtain abortions has doubled since the Supreme Court last year overturned the federal right to abortion, according to the pro-abortion rights Guttmacher Institute. About 1 in 5 patients who had an abortion in the first six months of 2023 – some 92,100 women – traveled out of state for their care, compared with 40,600 in the first half of 2020. *(Axios, as it appeared in The Week magazine, December 22, 2023)***

**The U.S. experienced a net decline of 24,290 abortions from July 2022 to March 2023 compared with levels before the Supreme Court repealed Roe v. Wade. The 93,575 fewer abortions in states that enacted abortion bans or restrictions were partially offset by the 69,285 additional abortions in states where they remain legal.*(FiveThirtyEight, as it appeared in The Week magazine, June 30, 2023)***

**Despite more than a dozen states banning or severely restricting abortions over the past year, the number of legal abortions performed in the first six months of 2023 was about 10 percent higher than for the same period in 2020. States such as Illinois, Colorado, and New Mexico, which border states with strict bans, saw the sharpest rise in abortions. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 22, 2023)***

**As a general matter, it’s unconstitutional for a state to extend its laws into another state. But abortion fights “could upend long-standing legal assumptions about state sovereignty.” The “effects doctrine,” which allows a state to regulate events outside its borders “if it impacts the state,” is one tool abortion foes will reach for, and it’s “difficult to predict” how conservative courts might rule. Red states trying to prevent out-of-state abortions may even target women’s digital data, said Sara Morrison in Vox. Search and location histories on smartphones could be seized and used to “help prove you broke an anti-abortion law.” *(The Week magazine, May 20, 2022)***

**About 1 in 5 pregnancies in the U.S. ended in abortion in 2020, according to a report by the Guttmacher Institute. There were more than 930,000 abortions that year, up from about 862,000 in 2017. *(Associated Press, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 1, 2022)***

**Let’s look at recent abortion rates in the United States. Of the more than 5 million known pregnancies per year between 1990 and 2019, nearly 13 percent were medically aborted. Yet all by itself the uterus spontaneously aborts as many as 15 percent of all known pregnancies during the first twenty weeks. Many more miscarriages go unnoticed since they occur in the first trimester, often before you know you’re pregnant. Combined, the number of spontaneous abortions may surpass 30 percent of all pregnancies, So, if God is in charge, then God aborts more fetuses than medical doctors do. Just some perspectives to consider as we all take sides on who controls our bodies. *(Neil deGrasse Tyson, in Starry Messenger, p. 194)***

**Could abortion become illegal in the U.S.?: Ten states have “trigger” laws in place that would outlaw abortion the moment the Supreme Court overturns Roe, and another 12 states are thought likely to pass new bans. About 100,000 fewer legal abortions would be carried out each year if Roe were scrapped, according to a study by Middlebury College. Forty-one percent of women of childbearing age would see their nearest abortion clinic close, and they’d have to travel an average of 279 miles to reach a facility, up from 35 miles today. But in more than half of the U.S., access to legal abortion would likely be unchanged. “A post-Roe United States isn’t one in which abortion isn’t legal at all,” said Caitlin Knowles Myers, an economist at Middlebury. “It’s one in which there’s tremendous inequality in abortion access.” *(The Week magazine, September 24, 2021)***

**Irish feminists fought a long, grueling campaign for abortion rights, converting leaders of all the major political parties. In 2018, they “achieved stunning success” as two-thirds of this once deeply Catholic country voted to legalize abortion in a referendum. Because the Irish focused on a democratic process – not a court ruling – their victory “is far more secure than Roe ever was.” Americans should emulate Ireland in their struggle with the Republican party that has become “ever more authoritarian in its insistence that the nation be ruled by white men.” Just as opposition to Roe led to the formation of the religious right, “its overturning might galvanize American feminists.” *(The Week magazine, May 20, 2022)***

**Why I had a late-term abortion? I have a very personal reason for believing late-term abortion must remain legal, said Judy Nicastro. My husband and I were elated when I became pregnant at 42 with twins, a boy and a girl. But a 20th-week ultrasound revealed heartbreaking news. Our boy had a “herniated diaphragm,” and his organs had been pushed into his chest and weren’t developing properly. “We desperately wanted this child,” but the doctors told us that if he survived birth, he would live only briefly and on massive life support. “The thought of hearing him gasp for air and linger in pain was our worst nightmare.” So in the 23rd week of my pregnancy, a needle was inserted “through my belly into his tiny heart.” I was deeply saddened – yet grateful that his ordeal was over. Later, I gave birth to a healthy and beautiful daughter. Pro-lifers in the House of Representatives, who last week voted to ban abortions after 22 weeks, would require that seriously deformed fetuses like my son be born “only to suffer.” Anyone with true compassion knows that this is an intensely personal decision – and should remain one. *(The Week magazine, July 5 through 12, 2013)***

**Legal abortions in the U.S. fell 6 percent in the six months after the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in June 2022, according to a report by the pro-choice Society of Family Planning. There was a net decline of 32,260 fewer legal abortions during that period, with abortions in some blue and purple states rising. *(Salon, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 28, 2023)***

**Endangering the “life of the mother”: The vast majority of Americans support abortion in cases of rape, incest, and complications that threaten “the life of the mother,” said Michele DaMarco. But many recently passed state abortion laws erase the rape and incest exceptions – and, through “subtle shifts in language,” could condemn some women with dangerous pregnancies to death. States such as Texas, Alabama, and Mississippi have abortion laws that include “ridiculously vague” and “medically meaningless” definitions of what constitutes a life-threatening condition for a pregnant woman. As I can attest, some conditions do not pose “immediate” threats to the woman’s life. I suffer from a coronary condition that caused two heart attacks in my 30s, and doctors told me when I became pregnant that continuing it “would be tantamount to suicide.” When 26 states soon ban abortion, will women like me be held in suspicion and forced to submit to a politician’s definition of life-threatening conditions? Will doctors be afraid to save women’s lives because they face lawsuits or prison? My decision to have an abortion “was truly the hardest, most anguishing decision I’ve ever made, and, perhaps surreally, also the most obvious.” Such decisions should not be made by governments. *(The Week magazine, May 13, 2022)***

**The rate of maternal deaths in the U.S. in 2020 was 23.8 for every 100,000 live births. For Black children the risk was more than double, with 55.3 deaths per 100,000. The risk of an abortion-related death was almost 60 times smaller than the overall maternal death rate, with 0.41 deaths for every 100,000 legal abortions. *(Financial Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 20, 2022)***

**How to minimize abortions: “This is a gut check for pro-lifers,” said Will Saletan. If their goal in the post-Roe world is to minimize abortions rather than to force women to give birth to more babies, then they should support low-cost orfree birth control. For Catholics who adhere to church teaching, contraception is “a non-starter,” but polls indicate most other pro-lifers don’t object. Desperate women have always found ways to evade abortion bans, but “among women who don’t get pregnant, the abortion rate is zero.” Long-acting reversible contraception (LARC), such as IUDs and hormonal implants, can prevent nearly all unwanted pregnancies. “You don’t have to talk the woman out of getting an abortion. You don’t have to inspect her mail for pills or try to stop her from escaping to a state where abortion is legal.” In Finland, a recent study found that the teen abortion rate fell by 36 percent after LARC use doubled. Promoting the use of effective contraception may not be as emotionally rewarding for pro-lifers as marching with pictures of fetuses and babies to be saved. But it would be far more effective. “Every women, given the choice, would rather avoid pregnancy than get an abortion.” *(The Week magazine, February 3, 2023)***

**Opponents of abortion should commit ourselves to the most generous and humane provisions for mothers and children (paid family leave, generous child benefits, direct income subsidies for stay-at-home mothers, single-payer health care). In a post-Roe world, many children who would not otherwise have been born will live lives of utter misery, and many of our fellow Americans will be indifferent to their plight. If we wish to dispel the noxious argument that only happy lives are worth saving, we will have to be honest about the limits of social policy and private charity in regulating the turbid ebb and flow of human suffering.” *(Matthew Walther, in The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 20, 2022)***

**Overturning Roe won’t end abortion – it will just defer the matter to the states, where “this profound moral question will be debated and settled the way it should be in a democracy – by the people. *(The Week magazine, May 13, 2022)***

**During his nomination process, the federal judge who issued the controversial abortion-pill ruling asked that his name be removed from a journal article condemning “Abortifacient drugs designed to kill unborn children.” Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk, who was required to submit his published works to the Senate Judiciary Committee, asked that the names of two colleagues be substituted, for “reasons I may discuss at a later date.” *(The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 28, 2023)***

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**Poll watch: 58% of Americans support a federal law that would make abortion legal across the U.S., while 42% oppose such a law. 33% want a federal law banning abortion in every state. *(CBS News / YouGov,, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 20, 2022)***

**Poll watch: 82% of Americans say abortion should be legal if a woman’s health is in jeopardy, and 79% support abortion in cases of rape or incest. 48% of respondents think abortion should be permitted when a woman cannot afford to have a child, while 45% think that should be illegal. 75% of Democrats, 53% of Independents, and 38% of Republicans want to uphold Roe v. Wade. *(Washington Post / ABC News, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 13, 2022)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Does prohibition stop abortion? History suggests not. In the 1950s and ‘60s, an estimated 200,000 to 1 million illegal abortions were performed each year in the U.S. Wealthy women would head abroad to get a termination or pay off a physician; poor and desperate women visited back-alley abortionists or attempted terminations at home, poking knitting needles or coat hangers into their wombs, or having their cervixes filled with Lysol. Fatalities were common and in some parts of the country abortion was the leading cause of maternal death. Worldwide, abortion rates are highest today in countries with strict abortion bans, possibly because those nations also restrict contraceptive access. In the U.S., the abortion rate is about 11 per 1,000 women of childbearing age; in Mexico – where the Supreme Court last week decriminalized abortion – it’s 34 per 1,000. *(The Week magazine, September 24, 2021)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Has the abortion rate changed recently? It’s been in steady decline since 1990, when a post-Roe high of 1.6 million abortions were performed in U.S. clinics. That number dropped to about 1 million in 2011 and 862,000 in 2017, according to the Guttmacher Institute, a research organization that supports abortion rights. New restrictions contributed to the decline, but they weren’t the central driver, because 57 percent of the drop in terminations from 2011 to 2017 occurred in 18 states that didn’t implement new barriers. Instead, a combination of factors likely explains the decline. An unknown number of women might be taking abortion pills they ordered online and so aren’t showing up in the official tally. Abortions may also be dropping because fewer women are getting pregnant in the first place. Contraceptive use has increased in part because the 2010 Affordable Care Act expanded access to health care, which means more women can get prescription IUDs and contraceptive pills. Ushma Upadhyay, a reproductive health expert at the University of California, San Francisco, notes that data suggests that the most fertile group of Americans, young people ages 18-24, “are having sex less” and so having fewer unplanned pregnancies. *(The Week magazine, September 24, 2021)***

**The U.S. abortion rate has dropped to the lowest level on record, according to a new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. There were 188 abortions for every 1,000 live births in 2015, a 26 percent decline from 2005. Experts say better access to more effective contraception, such as IUDs and implants, and restrictive laws in some states are driving the continuing decline. *(Vox.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, December 14, 2018)***

**The U.S. abortion rate is lower than it was in 1973, when the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion in every state. There were 13.5 abortions per 1,000women ages 15 to 44 in 2017, the last year for which statistics are available,compared with 16.3 in 1973, and 29.3 in 1982, when abortions peaked. *(TheDispatch.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 4, 2020)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Where is access being restricted? Nearly 600 abortion restrictions have been passed at the state level over the past decade, most of them in the South, the Midwest, and the Plains. Thirty-three states now require women to receive pre-abortion counseling, which can include speculation about when a fetus can feel pain or the supposed link between abortion and breast cancer, which is not backed by any scientific evidence. Twenty-five states have a waiting period, usually 24 to 48 hours, between counseling and termination. In Kentucky, doctors must perform ultrasounds and make women listen to the fetal heartbeat before an abortion. Thirteen states regulate the size of corridors and/or procedure rooms at abortion clinics, and many have complex rules for licensing physicians and technicians. Anti-abortion lawmakers say those policies ensure women’s safety; critics call them a cynical attempt to regulate clinics out of existence. *(The Week magazine, September 24, 2021)***

**The revelation set off a flurry of activity among state officials, with Republicans moving to ban or severely restrict abortion, and Democrats vowing to turn their states into safe havens for women seeking abortions. “They will be welcomed, and they will be served,” said Washington Gov. Jay Inslee. President Biden called the opinion “radical,” and he joined other Democrats in warning that it could open the door to revoke other rulings based on the right to privacy and personal autonomy, including same-sex marriage. *(The Week magazine, May 13, 2022)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Since the Roe v. Wade decision in 1973, more than 25 million American women have had abortions. (The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 30, 2005)**

**Is Roe v. Wade at risk?: Many legal experts think so following the Supreme Court‘s 5-4 refusal this month to block a new Texas law that bans most abortions after six weeks of pregnancy. “Any court that took the right to abortion seriously would have stayed this law,” said Florida State University law professor Mary Ziegler. “The real question is how and when the court overrules Roe.” The court may eventually knock down the Texas law on constitutional grounds, but there will be no shortage of opportunities for it to chip away at Roe. Following Justice Amy Coney Barrett’s confirmation last fall, which gave conservatives a 6-3 majority on the bench, GOP-led state legislatures passed a slew of abortion restrictions aimed at triggering legal battles that will land at the court. In the first seven months of 2021 alone, 90 new restrictions were enacted, more than in any year since Roe was decided in 1973. Some court watchers think the justices could upend long-standing precedent that a state may not ban abortion before fetal viability – usually adjudged at 24 weeks of pregnancy – when they hear arguments this fall over a Mississippi law banning nearly all terminations after 15 weeks. *(The Week magazine, September 24, 2021)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Legislatures in Ohio and five other Republican-controlled states are seeking to block residents from voting on ballot initiatives that would protect abortion rights in those states. The legislators are stiffening the requirements to get a referendum on theballot; in Ohio, Republicans are attempting to require a 60 percent super-majority of voters for any ballot measure to become law, rather than a simple majority. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 5, 2023)***

**Abortion seen in shades of gray: If Roe v. Wade is overturned and abortion laws are going to be debated in the states, said Peter Wehner, both sides should acknowledge “the inescapable ambiguities in this staggeringly complicated moral question.” As a Christian who believes Roe was wrongly decided, I see some inconsistencies in the absolutism of the pro-life side. If a fertilized egg is a full human being at the moment of conception, what is the meaning of the fact that about half of all fertilized eggs are “aborted spontaneously”? Are the deaths of those eggs comparable “to when a 2-year-old child dies? If not, why not?” Pro-choicers, on the other hand, are so adamant that abortion decisions belong solely to the woman and her doctor that they object to any gestational or other legal limits. Most Americans view an embryo or fetus as developing along a continuum, with unborn life becoming a human child sometime before birth. But adamant pro-choicers are unwilling to concede that abortions become “more ethnically problematic, the further along in a pregnancy.” Let’s face it: With life in the womb, “we’re dealing with an awesome mystery,” and wise policy decisions will require “caution,” “humility,” and “a touch of grace and empathy.” *(The Week magazine, May 27, 2022)***

**Should liberals give up on Roe? Are progressives “too focused on protecting Roe v. Wade”? asked law professor Joan Williams. The question may seem shocking, but the reality is that “we’ve basically lost the abortion fight.” If Roe is overturned, access to abortion will depend on where you live – but that is already true. There is no abortion clinic in 90 percent of U.S. counties, as a result of Republican legislatures’ “death-by-a-thousand-cuts” strategy” – imposing punitive restrictions on clinics and women seeking to end pregnancies. If Amy Coney Barrett replaces Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the court, the conservative majority is likely to approve even more state restrictions, and perhaps overturn Roe. Progressives should remember that RBG herself decided that Roe was a mistake – a turning point in which the gradualliberalization of state abortion laws gave way to an all-consuming cultural struggle. Opposition to Roe has led tens of millions of Americans to support Republican candidates whose economic policies heavily favor the rich. Defusing this culture war must occur through dialogue and persuasion; in heavily Catholic Ireland, “young people knocked on grannies’ doors and persuaded them to legalize abortion.” The same may need to happen here on a state-by-state basis. *(The Week magazine, October 9, 2020)***

**Despite more than a dozen states banning or severely restricting abortion over the past year, the number of legal abortions performed in the first six months of 2023 was about 10 percent higher than for the same period in 2020. States such as Illinois, Colorado, and New Mexico, which border states with strict bans, saw the sharpest rise in abortions. *(The New York Times, as it appeared in The Week magazine, September 22, 2023)***

**The surprising increase in abortions: After the Supreme Court overturned Roe, nearly everyone expected the number of abortions performed in the U.S. to sharply decline, said Rose Horowitch. But abortion rates actually increased slightly over the past year, according to separate surveys by the Society of Family Planning and the Guttmacher Institute. That’s largely because “even as red states have choked off access” to abortion, “blue states have widened it,” and thousands of women are traveling to clinics in states where abortion remains legal – many with the financial aid and logistical help of pro-choice organizations. At the same time, many women with unwanted pregnancies ordered abortion pills from doctors, pharmacies, and organizations like Aid Access that ship into the red states. “It doesn’t work to make abortion illegal,” said Linda Prine, a doctor and reproductive rights activist. Red state laws did, however, force thousands of women who are poor and uneducated to give birth. They also forced thousands of other women to spend money and time to travel to out-of-state clinics, where waiting lists sometimes delay the procedure by agonizing weeks. State abortion bans will never end the demand for abortion; they can only punish women who seek control over their reproductive lives. *(The Week magazine, November 10, 2023)***

**Only in America: A pregnant Texas woman is fighting a $215 ticket by claiming the end of Roe gives her the right to use the HOV lane. Brandy Buttone says that when officers pulled her over for driving “alone” in the high-occupancy lane, she said that her fetus now counts as a person in Texas, but they ticketed her anyway. Buttone says Texas can’t have it both ways. “My blood is boiling,” she said. *(The Week magazine, July 22, 2022)***

**Some demographics feel strongly that pregnant people should not have the right to terminate their pregnancy after the first six weeks, around the time you can first detect a heartbeat via ultrasound. They cite murder. To be clear, this would be the murder of a nonviable human embryo that weighs no more than a paper clip. Part the curtains of this community and you find strong influence from fundamentalist and otherwise conservative Christian groups. Of the fifteen most religious states, eleven had laws on the books ready to ban or greatly restrict abortion the moment the Supreme Court overturned Roe v Wade, the landmark 1973 case that decriminalized abortion. Clearly, belief in a loving-compassionate Christian God and in the sanctity of all human life (viable or not) strongly motivates these views. They’re not being bad citizens, they’re being good Christians – although ten of those same eleven states also embrace the death penalty. *(Neil deGrasse Tyson, in Starry Messenger, p. 193)***

**We’re seeing the tyranny of the minority in action, said Jessica Winter in The New Yorker. Four of the five justices ready to overturn Roe were appointed by presidents who lost the popular vote, and confirmed by a Senate constructed to give disproportionate power to sparsely populated, rural red-states. *(The Week magazine, May 13, 2022)***

**Abortion goes underground: An underground railroad of sorts is developing to help women in red states travel to abortion providers or illegally obtain abortion pills. The national nonprofit Plan C sent a truck across Texas this month bearing an illuminated advert that read “Missed period? There’s a pill for that.” AID Access, an online clinic that provides physician-supervised abortion, is selling abortion pills to Texans for $105. These groups are reminiscent of pre-Roe initiatives like the Abortion Counseling Service in Chicago, which provided more than 11,000 illegal abortions from 1969 to 1973. Recent abortion restrictions have also created surging demand at abortion providers near state borders, such as the Hope Clinic for Women in Granite City, Illinois, where half the patients are Missourians. “If Roe goes down,” said Plan C co-founder Elisa Wells, “there are always going to be ways to access abortion.” *(The Week magazine, September 24, 2021)***

**Pharma: Walgreens limits abortion pill sales: Walgreens was “caught in the crossfire” of the culture wars last week after saying it would stop dispensing abortion medication in 21 Republican-led states, said Alice Miranda Ollstein in Politico. The nation’s second-largest pharmacy chain said it would comply with a notice from the state attorneys general in February “threatening legal action if the company began distributing” abortion pills by mail or in stores – even in several states where abortion remains legal, including Alaska, Iowa, Kansas, and Montana. In January the Food and Drug Administration moved to let retail pharmacies sell mifepristone. A spokesperson for California Gov. Gavin Newsom said Walgreens had “caved to right-wing bullies,” and the state cut business ties with the chain. Walgreens’ capitulation to “a political scare tactic” is deeply disturbing, said the Los Angeles Times in an editorial. Consider how Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach crowed in a news release that Walgreens’ decision was “a significant victory for the pro-life cause.” Never mind that abortion remains legal in the state after voters rejected a proposed ban in August. We could understand “if Walgreens put out a statement saying their hands were tied in the 10 states where abortion is banned,” but yielding this easily to political pressure sets “a dangerous example” that is sure to inspire “more people to bully businesses.” *(The Week magazine, March 17, 2023)***

**“You think we hate each other now?” asked Michelle Goldberg in The New York Times. We may soon get a replay of a time when Southern states tried to compel Northern ones to return fugitive slaves. Texas has already passed a law calling for the extradition of people in other states who mail abortion pills to women in Texas. Louisiana may charge women who take such pills with homicide. California, New York, Connecticut, and other blue states are expanding clinics and shielding doctors and patients from red-state laws. An avalanche of new legal and political battles is coming, with some Republicans already talking about banning abortion nationally if they take control of Congress and the White House. “The death of Roe is going to tear America apart.” *(The Week magazine, May 20, 2022)***

**Where is abortion legal?: In the 49 years since the landmark Roe v. Wade abortion case in 1973, much of the modern world has dramatically expanded access to abortion procedures. By overturning Roe, the U.S. became just one of four countries to roll back abortion rights since 1994, joining El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Poland – all heavily Roman Catholic countries. In the same time period, nearly 60 countries have liberalized their abortion laws, ranging from Ireland – which legalized abortion via public referendum in 2018 – to Mexico, Colombia, and Argentina. In the few countries that have rolled back abortion rights, access has become severely limited and women report being surveilled and patrolled if they become pregnant or have miscarriages. “Being pregnant means that police can come to you any time,” said Polish activist Marta Lempart, “and prosecutors can come to you to ask you questions about your pregnancy.” *(The Week magazine, July 22, 2022)***

**If the Supreme Court overturns Roe v. Wade, “a new legal and legislative fight” will erupt across America, said Tierney Sneed in CNN.com. Inevitably, bans or severe limitations in roughly half the states will lead to women seeking abortions elsewhere – and to efforts by some red states to stop them. Leading the way is Missouri, where legislators are considering a bill that would make it a crime for residents to get abortions out of state. Abortion pills – which already account for more than half of U.S. abortions – will be front and center in the fight, said Stephen Groves in the Associated Press. Federal law allows mifepristone and misoprostol to be prescribed by telemedicine, delivered by mail, and taken without a doctor present, making them difficult to block. But conservatives will try, said abortion-law expert Mary Ziegler; whether they succeed, she said, will ultimately determine “how enforceable abortion bans are.” *(The Week magazine, May 20, 2022)***

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