1. Introduction

This past presidential election brought about fear to a lot of women. They felt that if the republican candidate were to get elected that it would mean the end to their right to choose abortion. To these women I must say look back in history over the past 40 years. A republican president has been in office 7 terms since the ruling of Roe v Wade. Guess how many tried to challenge the ruling? ZERO. The president does not make laws, he enforces them. I believe the state is where the fight for abortion lies and not the presidency.

1. The debate over abortion in this country has been going on for more than a half of century. This debate will never go away, nor should it. There are three areas I would like to touch on today. First, the ruling of Roe v Wade. Second, the states’ role in governing and enforcing abortion. Lastly, the laws that govern the funding of abortion.

Therefore I would like to begin with the ruling of Roe v Wade:

1. Body
2. Nearly 40 years ago on January 22, 1973 Roe v Wade was passed in the Supreme Court with a 7 to 2 majority vote. This decision had been passed not only by a majority of republican appointed justices but during a republican presidency. The ruling gave woman the right to an abortion during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. This was later amended stating that women had the right to an abortion prior to the viability of the fetus. Viability is defined as the fetus being able to live outside of the uterus. According to Roe v Wade the laws that govern abortion post viability are that of the state law not federal.

This leads to my second topic: States’ role in governing and enforcing abortion

1. At the state level abortion can be further regulated, such as requiring parental consent, counseling, setting a mandatory waiting period, and enacting laws for late term abortions. There are 37 states that have a ban on late term abortions. Each state defines late term abortion differently. States cannot prevent women from having an abortion during early pregnancy; however, the states do have every right to criminalize women who have late term abortions. The biggest issue that could potentially challenge Roe v Wade would be if a state were to pass a law that defines life as starting at conception. Please do not be fooled into thinking that this is a political party issue, for it spans both parties. In Louisiana in 2006 a law was passed in the state legislature and signed by a democratic governor banning most forms of abortion with the exclusion regarding the health of the mother. This is considered a trigger law, which means that if Roe v Wade is overturned this law will take effect immediately. Other states have similar laws; however, there are some states that have trigger laws that will keep abortion legal even if Roe v Wade is overturned.

There are other ways that both state and federal laws try to limit abortion, and that is by making abortion unaffordable. This leads me into my final topic: funding of abortion

1. Two reasons often given for why a woman pursues abortion or why a woman has a child: either they cannot afford to support a baby or they couldn’t afford an abortion. Why is this? Because Medicaid will fund a birth but not an abortion. In 1976 the Hyde Amendment which was proposed by a republican congressman and passed in both the house and senate stated that abortion will not be federally funded except in instances of incest, rape, or in cases where a mother’s life is in danger. The amendment left the issue of funding to each state. As of 2007, only 17 of the 50 states provide funding. The reelection of President Obama and the implementation of Obamacare may have some thinking that abortion may be funded. This is not the case. As a matter of fact Representative Stupak a democrat from Michigan proposed an amendment to Obamacare that prohibits the funding of Abortion except for incest, rape, and danger to the life of the mother. President Obama agreed to the amendment if Rep Stupak agreed to vote yes to pass Obamacare. President Obama then signed an executive order confirming the Stupak amendment.
2. Conclusion

I have given you information regarding the Federal, State and funding laws concerning abortion. It is up to each one of us as US citizens to fight for what we believe in whether we are for or against abortion. The fight for abortion I believe begins at the state level; furthermore, we must arm ourselves with knowledge. We cannot take what other people say at face value, because they may be misleading you.

Thank you