

Abortion Is Not A Right For All... But We Can Fix That

Even after the passing of Roe V. Wade, abortion access has been greatly restricted across the United States through a series of Supreme Court cases and the Hyde Amendment. Furthermore, women of color and families below the poverty line, who make up a disproportionate percentage of abortions, experience increased discrimination and regulation in the field of reproductive health as a byproduct of these laws.

THE HYDE AMENDMENT

No funds authorized or appropriated by Federal law, and none of the funds in any trust or fund to which funds are authorized or appropriated by Federal law, shall be expended for any abortion. Excluding cases of rape, incest, and endangerment to a mother's life.¹

Key Supreme Court Cases



Roe V. Wade

The 1970, 7-2 ruling, decided that in the first trimester the state can not regulate any abortion decision.²



Harris v. McRae

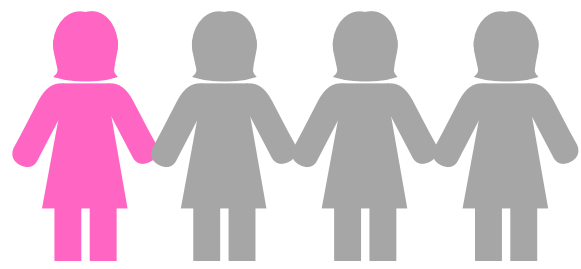
In this 1980 case it was decided in a 5-4 decision that the states participating in the Medicaid program were not obligated to fund "non-medically" necessary abortions.³



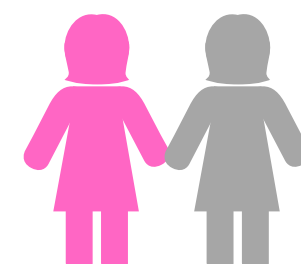
Casey v. Planned Parenthood

This 1992 5-4 case ruled that states could not place undue burden -substantial obstacle in the path of a woman seeking an abortion before the fetus attains viability"- on any women seeking an abortion⁴

Why is abortion access a problem?



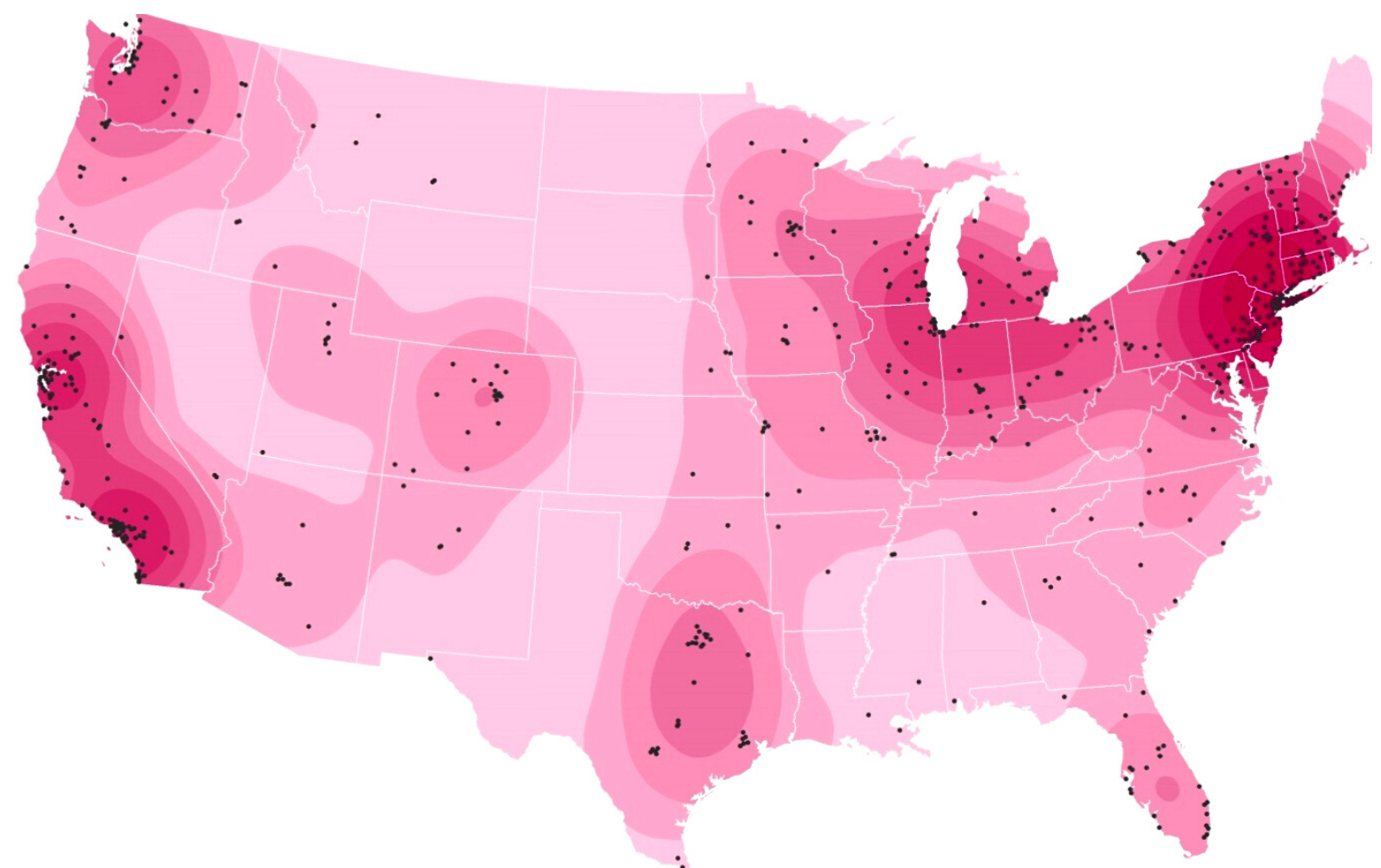
Approximately **25%**
of women in the United States will get an
abortion by the time they are 45⁵



Of women who receive an abortion in
the United States **49%**
fall under the federal poverty line⁶

The average cost of an abortion
without insurance is...⁷

\$350-\$950



Regional Density of Planned Parenthood Clinics⁸

Fewest Clinics Most Clinics • Planned Parenthood Clinics

The Hyde Amendment disproportionately affects poor women on Medicaid, a federal healthcare for the poor. The Hyde Amendment targets poor women, and women of color, in an attempt to reverse the effects of the liberalization of abortion through Roe V. Wade. While Roe V Wade made abortion legal it did not make abortion geographically and financially accessible. The national average of miles traveled in order to receive an abortion is 11.0 miles. However, in a Tennessee study the average distance traveled was 50.53 miles.⁹ The recent push to close planned parenthoods across America has further enhanced this issue. In rural America, abortions are becoming inaccessible to women. Specifically, those who can not take time off of work to travel to a clinic, and do not have the resources to travel many miles. Furthermore, abortion prices, without insurance, are very high even in the first trimester. The problem is a lot bigger than all of these measures going against Roe V. Wade and Casey v. Planned Parenthood. The problem is that abortions will happen legally or not, and for women's safety and reproductive health across the United States abortion access must be equitable across racial groups, socioeconomic groups, and geographic groups.

The Solution is Simple...

Repeal the Hyde Amendment

While some states are giving Medicaid and Affordable Care Act members abortion coverage, many states are not. Typically the states not allocating state dollars toward abortion coverage, are ones with a lack of planned parenthoods and clinics. Further putting women in danger and without proper reproductive services.

Provide access for **ALL** women

Roe V. Wade set a precedent that women had the right to choose and have open and equal access to abortions, for any and all reasons. Casey V. Planned parenthoods required that there be no "undue burden" for women seeking an abortion. Sadly, today for women of color, women under the poverty line, and women in rural America there are still financial and geographic burdens to receiving abortions. In order to provide equal access for all women planned parenthoods must be funded, number of clinics were capita must increase, and financial equity for those seeking abortions must be provided. For the safety of women in America abortion must become an accesible right not just one that is promised on paper.

References

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