

# 48 YEARS AFTER *ROE v. WADE*

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



On Jan. 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court decided in *Roe v. Wade* to eliminate laws protecting unborn children nationwide. Abortion must be legal for any reason before the point of fetal viability, the Court said, and at least for “health” reasons even after. In the Court’s *Doe v. Bolton* ruling, decided on the same day, the Court defined “health” so broadly that virtually any reason would justify a late-term abortion. In the years since, the Court has modified its approach in other abortion decisions (and allowed for some types of modest protective laws), **but continued to rule that the Constitution requires abortion-on-demand.**

### A JUDICIAL CATASTROPHE

*Roe v. Wade* was a huge legal mistake. The Constitution doesn’t say anything about abortion. The Court argued that the 14th Amendment includes an implicit right to abortion, but many of the same Americans who ratified that Amendment (in 1868) also voted to enact state laws protecting unborn children from abortion. They didn’t agree to a “right to abortion”—they rejected one! **John Hart Ely, an eminent legal scholar who personally supported abortion, famously concluded that *Roe v. Wade* is “bad because it is bad constitutional law, or rather because it is *not* constitutional law and gives almost no sense of an obligation to try to be.”**

The consequences of the Court’s mistake have been disastrous. **A whole class of innocent human beings has been excluded from the law’s protection against lethal violence.** More than 62 million unborn children have been legally killed nationwide—including more than 660,000 in Minnesota. Women, men, and families have been wounded.

In the decades since *Roe v. Wade*, pro-lifers have worked to educate and persuade the public, help pregnant women in need, and enact laws increasing protection (to the extent possible) for unborn children and their mothers. And we have made significant progress. **Abortions nationwide and in Minnesota have dropped almost 50 percent since their peaks.** Yet nearly 900,000 abortions still take place each year across the country, including about 10,000 in Minnesota. **The gravity and scope of the injustice of abortion make it unlike anything else in American society today.**

### THE RESULTS OF *ROE*?

**62+ MILLION  
UNBORN  
CHILDREN  
KILLED**

**WOMEN, MEN,  
AND FAMILIES  
WOUNDED**

## CAN *ROE v. WADE* BE OVERTURNED?

Overturing *Roe v. Wade* is crucial. It wouldn't secure protection for all unborn children under the law (which is the ultimate pro-life objective), but it would allow states again to determine their own abortion policies, opening the door to much greater protection. To get there, a majority of justices on the Court must be willing to take a case in which *Roe v. Wade* can be reconsidered—and then use that opportunity to overturn it.

**Recently appointed justices have shifted the Court in the right direction. But no one knows for sure which abortion-related cases the Court will accept in the coming months and years—and how the Court will rule on them.** Pro-lifers are hopeful that, going forward, the Court will allow greater and greater protection for unborn children and their mothers.

## WHAT CAN WE DO TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

There is so much more work to do on behalf of the vulnerable human beings who need us! What can you do?

- **Connect with MCCL on social media and our website ([mccl.org](http://mccl.org)).**
- **Learn more about the issues.** Share pro-life materials and social media posts with others.
- **Look out for MCCL's upcoming events.** Although some events early in the year will be canceled because of the pandemic, we look forward to our pro-life county fair booths and Life Leadership Camp for young people in the summer.
- **Support the work of pregnancy care centers.** These centers provide compassionate support and positive alternatives to abortion for pregnant women in need.
- **Contact your lawmakers and urge them to vote for pro-life legislation and oppose pro-abortion legislation.** Here in Minnesota, MCCL will back a ban on taxpayer funding of abortion and other pro-life legislative initiatives. At the federal level, members of Congress may consider whether to roll back the pro-life Hyde Amendment, which prevents most direct federal funding of abortion.
- **Support the pro-life educational and legislative work of MCCL.** You may donate online at [mccl.org/donate](http://mccl.org/donate) or by calling 612-825-6831.



**WILL YOU**

**JOIN US**

**TO SAVE**

**LIVES?**



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