

As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, we must put the history and current state of abortion rights in context. The Socialist Party USA understands that control over one's fertility is a part of basic health care and part of a human rights agenda. We refuse to allow health care issues to be continually placed in the political arena. We trust women to make good choices in the best interests of their families and their own lives.

Socialist Party USA

339 Lafayette St., No. 303
New York, NY 10012
Phone/Fax: (212) 982-4586
Web: www.socialistpartyusa.org



- I want to know more about the Socialist Party USA; please add me to your mailing list
- Enclosed is \$6 for a year's subscription to *The Socialist*
- Enclosed is an additional \$1, please send me a copy of *Socialist Women* and information on the SPUSA's Women's Commission
- I want to join the Socialist Party USA; please send me a membership application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

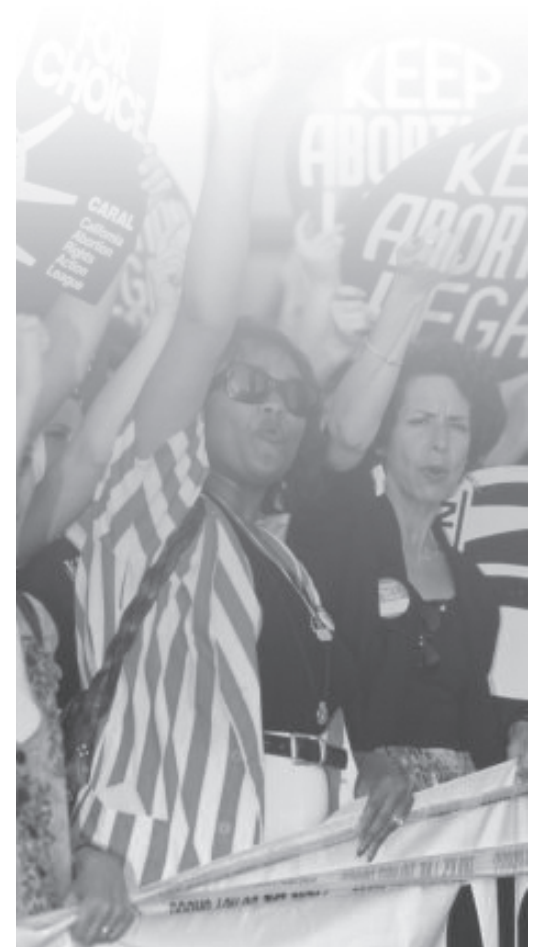
State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

30 YEARS LATER, THE BATTLE CONTINUES...

The 30th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade



A Socialist Party USA Statement

Throughout history and all over the world, women have found ways to have abortions. Legal, religious, financial, and bureaucratic barriers continue to hamper women's desires to control their own fertility.

If a woman cannot control her own body, how can she participate fully in responsibilities to herself, her family, her community, her country, or her religious path? Women will not achieve full political, social, and personal equality until they can control whether or not to have children, how many children to have, the spacing between births and the timing of births.

Before *Roe v. Wade*, many unscrupulous people performed abortions — people associated with organized crime, people who asked women for sexual favors before performing the procedure, people who demanded more money than originally agreed upon. Women with wealth avoided these dangers by flying to Europe, Puerto Rico, or New York to get a legal abortion.

On January 22, 1973, abortion was finally deemed a Constitutional right. *Roe v. Wade* decreed that women have the right to decide whether to bring a pregnancy to term. The decision was based on the Constitutional right to privacy.

In 1977, the Hyde Amendment was passed that cut off Federal funds for

abortion services to women who received Medicaid. The erosion of a woman's right to choose had begun.

Since then, subsequent rulings have allowed individual states to restrict some aspects of abortion. Women now face — in various combinations — parental notification or consent laws, 24-hour waiting periods, state-mandated information, and school programs that try to teach “abstinence only.”

Even with eroded legal access to abortion, finding resources can be a challenge. Barriers include lack of providers, limited transportation, lack of adequate health insurance, and lack of adequate coverage even with health insurance.

U.S. policy on abortion has global effects. Global funding of family planning, taking place anywhere on earth, cannot include abortion counseling, referral, or the performing of a procedure — even if no U.S. dollars pay for that particular program. This policy leads to the deaths of women all over the world.

History shows that women, for many reasons, will seek out abortions. If abortion is unsafe, illegal, and hard to find, women will have unwanted pregnancies. They will have problems after giving birth. They will die from illegal abortions.

The Socialist Party recognizes that

a struggle against habitual male dominance and patriarchy must go hand in hand with any struggle against capitalism. Therefore, we pledge our opposition to all forms of sexism, and demand equality for women in all aspects of life. We support the rights of all women to birth control information and supplies, and to all reproductive health services — including abortion. This would be provided through a single payer, universal health care system — making health care services available to all.

