

**“Can you be pro-life and support Senator Obama?
The answer - upon even a moment’s reflection - is unequivocally yes.”**

- Douglas Kmiec, Ronald Reagan Legal Council and Catholic Legal Scholar

FACTS ON PREVENTING ABORTIONS

Abortion Facts

- Half of all pregnancies in the United States are unintended.
- Almost half of unintended pregnancies end in abortion.
- The most frequent reasons given by women seeking an abortion are that a child would limit ability to meet current responsibilities and that they cannot afford a child at this point in their lives.
- Unintended pregnancy has increased by 29% among poor women while decreasing 20% among higher-income women.
- Women below the federal poverty level have abortion rates almost four times those of higher-income women.
- Between 1996 and 2000, while abortion rates for all other groups fell, abortion rates among poor and low-income women increased.
- The majority of women having abortions are in their 20s or younger.

Source: Guttmacher Institute, “An Overview of Abortion in The United States”

Studies Show that Economic Support for Women and Families Reduces Abortion

- A recent study released by Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good finds that social and economic supports such as benefits for pregnant women and mothers and economic assistance to low-income families have contributed significantly to reducing the number of abortions in the United States over the past twenty years.
- Economic assistance to low income families is correlated with a 20% lower abortion rate. Across the entire United States, this translates into 200,000 fewer abortions.
- In the 1990s, states with more generous grants to women, infants and children under the age of five as provided by the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program had a 37% lower abortion rate.
- Higher male employment in the 1990s was associated with a 29% lower abortion rate.
- The abortion rate has declined most rapidly from 1990-1996 when there was an economic boom under President Clinton. While rates have continued to decrease, they have declined less rapidly in recent years when poverty rates have been climbing.

Source: Joseph Wright and Michael Bailey, “Reducing Abortion in America : The Effect of Economic and Social Supports” (Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good) and The Guttmacher Institute “An Overview of Abortion in The United States”

Legal Status of Abortion Does Not Necessarily Impact Abortion Rates

- Nearly half of all abortions in the world are performed in countries that have made abortion illegal.
- The lowest abortion rates in the world - less than 10 per 1,000 women of reproductive age - are in Europe, where abortion is legal and available.
- By contrast, in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean, where abortion law is most restrictive, the regional rates are 29 and 31 per 1,000 women, respectively.
- These countries are also much poorer than the U.S. and provide fewer social services; and a larger proportion of their population lives in poverty.
- In Western European countries, in contrast, where more social services are provided and fewer women live in poverty, the abortion rates are consistently the lowest rates in the world.

Source: Guttmacher Institute, "An Overview of Abortion in The United States"

Overturing Roe Vs. Wade Will Not End Abortion in America

- Overturing Roe Vs. Wade, a long time goal of the pro-life movement, would not end abortion in the United States, it would simply send the decision to the states.
- If states with more than 45% "pro-life" sentiment chose to outlaw abortion, this would only impact 16 states accounting for 10% of abortions nationwide, or less than 100,000 abortions a year.
- Women in these 16 states would still be able to travel to seek an abortion in another state, or seek an illegal abortion, making the impact likely less than a 10% reduction in abortions nation-wide.
- States with the highest abortion rates in the country, like California and New York, would be unlikely to outlaw abortion in their states.

Source: Catholics United Study "Reducing Abortion in America: Beyond Roe v. Wade"

WHAT BARACK OBAMA WILL DO

An Obama administration will do more than a McCain administration for the cause of life, by drastically reducing abortions through giving women and families the support and the tools they need to choose life. Barack Obama will strive to promote life with dignity for all from the beginning of life to the end - by making sure health care is affordable, combating poverty, providing good paying jobs, and ensuring security in life's final years.

Support for Women and Families

- Sen. Obama supports paid maternity leave to make sure families won't lose their employment and much needed income from having a child.
- Sen. Obama supports legislation to allow 'sick-leave' to also cover one's sick children.
- Expand programs like the successful Nurse-Family Partnership to all low-income, first-time mothers. The Nurse-Family Partnership provides home visits by trained registered nurses to low-income expectant mothers and their families.
- Sen. Obama has committed to making investment in affordable daycare and supports a refundable Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit would allow families to receive a 50 percent credit on up to \$3,000 of childcare.
- Sen. Obama will cut taxes for 95 percent of all working families and will cut middle class taxes three times as much as Sen. McCain.

Fatherhood and Responsibility

- Obama is a cosponsor of the Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Families Act, which encourages personal responsibility and includes provisions for domestic violence prevention and improved collection and distribution of child support.
- You can listen to Senator Obama's groundbreaking Father's Day speech on fatherhood and personal responsibility on YouTube.

Health Care

- Obama is committed to signing health legislation by the end of his first term in office that will guarantee affordable healthcare for every American.
- Under the Obama health plan, no one would be denied health care coverage because of a pre-existing condition. He would change the bizarre practice of pregnancy being listed in many health coverage plans as a "pre-existing condition."
- Sen. Obama is a strong advocate for the expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) to provide health care to children in low-income families.

Supporting Adoption

- Sen. Obama has been a proponent of increased support for adoption agencies and an expanded adoption tax credit.

Late-Term Abortion

- Obama opposes late term abortions, with a clear exception for the mother's life and health: "I have repeatedly said that I think it's entirely appropriate for states to restrict or even prohibit late-term abortions as long as there is a strict, well-defined exception for the health of the mother. Now, I don't think that 'mental distress' qualifies as the health of the mother. I think it has to be a serious physical issue that arises in pregnancy, where there are real, significant problems to the mother carrying that child to term."

- Senator Obama in an interview with *Relevant* magazine, July 1, 2008

Tackling Poverty

- Obama will expand the Earned Income Tax Credit to help lift many families out of poverty. His plan will increase the number of working parents eligible for EITC benefits, increase the benefit available to parents who support their children through child support payments, and reduce the EITC marriage penalty.
- Obama supports Catholic Charities USA's stated goal to cut domestic poverty in half in ten years.
- Obama will make sure that full-time workers can earn a wage that allows them to raise their families and live with dignity. Obama will raise the minimum wage to \$9.50 an hour by 2011 and index it to inflation.
- Senator Obama supports the expansion of the leading program that provides nutritional support for low-income pregnant women and their infants and children (WIC).

SEN. MCCAIN HAS VOTED AGAINST SUPPORT FOR PREGNANT WOMEN AND FAMILIES

- McCain voted against extending Medicaid coverage to pregnant women and infants up to one year of age with incomes below the Federal poverty line.
- Senator McCain voted twice against the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), one of the largest support programs for pregnant women and poor children, which would have provided health care to an additional 3.2 million children and continuing coverage for the more than 6 million children already dependent on the care.
- Senator McCain has opposed increases in funding to nutritional support program for pregnant women and infants (WIC) that has proven to be one of the most effective programs in supporting women to carry their pregnancies to term.
- McCain voted against increased funding for child care and does not have a plan to help families make child care affordable.
- Sen. McCain has voted to increase taxes on local small business nurseries and childcare providers.
- He has voted against minimum wage increases at least 19 times and voted to completely repeal the minimum wage in 45 states.