



Where Do the Candidates Stand on Life?

John McCain



Barack Obama

Roe v. Wade

**Note: The "Freedom of Choice Act" is a bill that would invalidate virtually all state and federal limitations on abortion, including partial-birth abortion.*

OPPOSES

- Voted to oppose *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court decision that allows abortion for any reason.
- "...We would be better off by having *Roe v. Wade* return to the states....I don't believe the...Court should be legislating in the way that they did on *Roe v. Wade*."

SUPPORTS

- Co-sponsor of the "Freedom of Choice Act."*
- "I have consistently advocated for reproductive choice and will make preserving women's rights under *Roe v. Wade* a priority as President."

Partial-Birth Abortion Ban

***Note: Gonzales v. Carhart is the April 2007 Supreme Court decision upholding the constitutionality of the federal Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act.*

The partial-birth abortion procedure — used from the fifth month on — involves pulling a living baby feet-first out of the womb, except for the head, puncturing the skull and suctioning out the brain. The great majority of partial-birth abortions are performed on healthy babies of healthy mothers.

SUPPORTS

- Voted for the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act.
- "Today's Supreme Court ruling [in *Gonzales v. Carhart***] is a victory for those who cherish the sanctity of life."

OPPOSES

- "I am extremely concerned that [*Gonzales v. Carhart***] will embolden state legislatures to enact further measures to restrict a woman's right to choose, and that the conservative Supreme Court justices will look for other opportunities to erode *Roe v. Wade*."

Taxpayer Funding of Abortion

OPPOSES

- Voted in favor of the Hyde Amendment, which prohibits taxpayer funding of abortion through the Medicaid program.
- Voted consistently against federal funding of abortion.

SUPPORTS

- Voted against legislation in the Illinois State Senate that prohibited taxpayer dollars from being used to pay for abortion.
- His campaign has stated that he "does not support" the Hyde Amendment, which prohibits taxpayer funding of abortion through the Medicaid program.

Parental Notification Law

SUPPORTS

- Voted to support a bill that would have required an abortionist to notify at least one parent before performing an abortion on a minor girl from another state.

OPPOSES

- Voted to block a bill that would have required an abortionist to notify at least one parent before performing an abortion on a minor girl from another state.

Protecting Abortion Survivors

SUPPORTED

- Voted for legislation that provides protection for babies who survive abortions equal to protection received by babies who are spontaneously born prematurely.

OPPOSED

- Voted three times against a bill in the Illinois State Senate that would have provided protection for babies who survive abortions equal to protection received by babies who are spontaneously born prematurely.

Embryonic Stem Cell Research

SUPPORTS

- Voted in favor of funding embryonic stem cell research.
- "I believe that skin stem cell research has every potential very soon of making that discussion [embryonic stem cell research] academic."

SUPPORTS

- Voted in favor of funding embryonic stem cell research.
- "Embryonic stem cells can be obtained from a number of sources including in vitro fertilization. ...We should expand and accelerate research using these embryos..."

Human Cloning

OPPOSES

- His campaign website states that he "opposes the intentional creation of human embryos for research purposes."

SUPPORTS

- Co-sponsored a bill (S. 1520) in 2005 that would allow the cloning of human embryos to be used in research, but prohibit placing them in wombs.