



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NOW-NYC Denounces Supreme Court's *Carhart* Decision *Women's Lives Are At Risk*

NOW—NYC denounces the recent Supreme Court decision to uphold the Federal Abortion Ban. In 2005, NOW-NYC was one of the few voices of staunch opposition to the confirmation of Justices Roberts and Alito, and we are going to be the leaders in reversing the fallout from their egregious decision that bans women's full access to abortion.

As we suspected during the confirmation hearings, both Alito and Roberts proved themselves willing to abandon their "respect for precedent" at the first opportunity to advance their political agenda.

This is a political decision that ignores medical evidence that the specific banned procedure is generally the safest one for women and puts the health of all women, including New Yorkers, at risk. This decision allows legislators the right to substitute their judgment about a woman's health for that of her doctors.

With this decision, the women's health exception enshrined in *Roe* and protected in *Casey* has been virtually eliminated. And the Court's majority is not accomplishing its own stated goal of saving fetal life, since it is only barring is one specific procedure.

The Court's hostility to abortion in general is manifested in their repeated use of the pejorative title "abortion doctor" when referring to obstetrician-gynecologists and surgeons who perform this procedure.

Even more shocking is the paternalist attitude the court took regarding women and their role in society:

"Respect for human life finds an ultimate expression in the bond of love the mother has for her child. ...Whether to have an abortion requires a difficult and painful moral decision. ...While we find no reliable data to measure the phenomenon, it seems unexpected to conclude some women come to regret their choice..."

Women's rights are at risk of regressing 35 years and as was eloquently written by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, the lone woman on the Supreme Court, "The Act and the Court's defense of it cannot be understood as anything other than an effort to chip away at a right declared again and again by this court and with increasing comprehension of its centrality to women's lives."

The National Organization for Women is the nation's largest organization working to advance women's rights and improve women's lives. The New York City Chapter of NOW, founded in 1966, is the largest chapter in the country with 7,000 members locally and 35,000 statewide. NOW-NYC works to protect women's reproductive choices, end violence against women and eliminate sex discrimination in our schools, workplaces, and the justice system in New York.

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