

Argumentative Essay on Abortion

(stance: pro-choice)

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The value of human rights is being diminished. In a time when our society seeks equality more than ever, we are still finding ways to split the country in two over the topic of what women are legally allowed to do. In June 2022, the case of *Roe v. Wade* was overturned. This sent a panic across the nation, as it was the first line of defense for women's abortion rights. As more states side with anti-abortion laws, unprepared mothers become even more alienated. Mothers who need an abortion for one reason or another are being denied their right to choose what to do with their bodies, which is a precedent that should not be tolerated.

With abortion leaning more towards an outlawed status every day, fear amongst pregnant women who don't want a child becomes more rampant. Teenage mothers need attention on so many more levels compared to the average pregnant woman. Josephine Devito defends this by saying, "Adolescent mothers, though—especially first-time adolescent mothers—experience additional challenges because they must not only adapt to the role of being a new mother but also continue to develop through the transitional stages of adolescence" (Devito 2). Adulthood and childbirth are two stages of life that are too much for a person confronting them for the first time by themselves, let alone juggling them simultaneously. Simply put, these adolescent mothers have far too many things on their plate to make the right decisions all the time. Devito states, "...a young mother in the early stage of adolescence still needs to be "mothered" by her own mother or a person in her life who acts as her mother. Adolescent mothers, therefore, have specific needs for help to successfully navigate through the combined demands of adolescent development and their role as a new parent" (Devito 2). When the topic of early-stage teenage pregnancy is brought up in the context of the mother, it's hard not to think about the imminent rejection from the family. This includes the father and parents in most cases. While these mothers need more help than ever in this desperate time in their lives, they are abandoned by those who were by their side the most. The dismay of the young mother reveals itself as the aid needed to nurture the baby to have a healthy birth if they want it. However, the evolving problem is the choice and process of abortion. Mothers who seek abortion are being cut off from the help they desperately need.

Abortion in America is largely considered a bad thing and pro-choice is seen as the morally incorrect argument. It is this way when it comes to legislation and societal acceptance. Slavica Komatina tells us, "It is difficult to recognize in the local community itself, because it is part of the usual and generally accepted behavior, just like early marriage, which puts immature and unprepared young people in the parental position, so it is not unusual that they cannot cope with that role in a society that sets very high standards" (Komatina 12). Pregnancy has been a widespread problem for minors for a long time, even before *Roe v. Wade* was overturned. According to Guttmacher Institute Incorporated, in 2013, 448,000 pregnancies were among 15–19-year-olds and 7,400 were among 14 and younger (Kost). Teenage pregnancy is already largely frowned upon in our society, which can be

paired with a similar hatred of abortion. The mothers in these situations take so much backlash, which is only becoming a worse problem as time passes. This hatred and normalization of stripping rights from these mothers only does harm. Komatina claims, "In conditions of extreme poverty and constant struggle for family survival, numerous frustrations often culminate in violence and deviant behavior which, in combination with other socio-cultural deficits and deprivations, leads to a specific form of parental alienation" (Komatina 12). Before the decision to abort is made, the mother is left alone in many cases. After either birth or abortion, the mother will be shunned for having the child or for rejecting life. There isn't a happy ending that doesn't result in bullying from the society that is being shaped to despise these mothers who have very little choice. *Roe v. Wade* has effectively turned the country against itself to shame these mothers who are already struggling at every turn.

So many things can be lost in this storm of uncertainty that looms over the victims of this monumental overturning. Friends, family, community, respect, spouses, and many more. Yet, above all, the most vital thing these mothers have been losing is their freedom. That choice of abortion is taken away by our national and state governments, which prevents mothers from making the decision that could be the best for them. Rosalond Petchesky says, "...the fall of *Roe* reminds that rights are inherently important; their legislative replacements, even if viable, are unlikely to be as effective. Control over one's body is an essential part of being an individual with needs and rights, a concept that is the most powerful legacy of the liberal political tradition" (Johnson 1). The part of this quote that resides with me the most is the use of the words needs and rights. They are almost always used as synonyms because of how truly important it is to have all options available, especially when it feels like the world is against you. The right to live and the right to choose are the two sides that make this such a topic of conversation because both of them are rights we have. Those who are pro-life tend to argue the point that the baby doesn't have a say in whether or not it gets the chance at life. Murder is a commonly used word when arguing against the choice of abortion. While I do agree that murder is unjustifiable, it simply isn't the case. The quality of life after birth is something that needs more attention. Teenage mothers who choose to abort aren't always strictly concerned with themselves. The lives of the baby and mother will always be financially worse off compared to only feeding one person. One semi-financially stable life for the mother is better than the two lives of a poor family consisting of that mother and child in a different life. *Roe v. Wade* is taking the option of a potentially better life from these mothers. Loretta J. Ross and Rickie Solinger explain that, "We think of reproductive justice as an open source code that people have used to pursue fresh critical thinking regarding power and powerlessness. Reproductive justice argues that social institutions, the environment, economics, and culture affect each woman's reproductive life" (Johnson 3). Our government is effectively dictating the number of abortions in the country and how welcome the concept is in the eyes of the public. The power that women had over their bodies provided by *Roe v. Wade* was the only defense against this domino effect we are witnessing, which is diminishing their freedom as time goes on.

Abortion detaches the mothers who need it in such a desperate time in their lives, yet it is reaching closer to a status of taboo as the state governments agree more with each other. We cannot allow this morally unconstitutional violation of civil liberties to continue the way that it is. Mothers are losing their free will to the nation that prides itself on such vast liberties. Adolescent mothers are in

such an awful situation on every front to only be denied an option that may be the best for their future. The stigma of teenage mothers is enough for the public to lose any sympathy for their situation. We need to support these mothers rather than undervalue them. Having more affinity towards them will lead to better places as opposed to pure negativity.

Works Cited

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