

Court weighs partial-birth abortion issue

There aren't many issues that have divided this nation as much as the topic of abortion. The United States Supreme Court will soon decide whether a Nebraska law that bans partial-birth abortions is constitutional. The case will be heard in April and the court will likely decide it shortly thereafter.

One question the Supreme Court will have to answer is this: Is "full birth" a prerequisite for legal "personhood" according to the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution — vs. "partial birth?"



B.J. Nikkel
Community

According to the Supreme Court ruling in *Roe vs. Wade*, the 14th Amendment did not

protect the "personhood" of the unborn — it upheld individual rights over rights of the unborn. The mostly liberal-minded justices (liberal not meant in a pejorative sense) determined that the word "person" in the Fourteenth Amendment didn't include the unborn. They established a "line-of-personhood" in *Roe vs. Wade* that is still a point of controversy for many that view the unborn as people with rights that should be protected as well.

A baby completely out of the birth canal is a "person." So, is it infanticide to kill babies brought mostly out of the birth canal except for the head?

The following facts are meant to inform — not inflame. It's a medical fact that the baby to be aborted has been brought out of the birth canal, all the way except for the head. It's a fact that the base of the baby's skull is cut into and then the brains are sucked out. Doesn't sound very nice, does it? These are facts, however, that everyone should understand in order to understand the controversy. These facts explain why over half of the states in United States have outlawed partial-birth abortion. It is an inhumane way for a baby who is approximately four-fifths of the way out of the birth canal, to die. It would be an inhumane way for any creature to die.

Galactic lies have been told to millions of people in order to further the cause of abortion. Norma McCorvey, "Jane Roe" in *Roe vs. Wade*, came forward in 1995 and admitted that her story of being gang raped was a lie. She admitted that the attorneys representing her sought to further the cause of abortion in the state of Texas.

Ron Fitzsimmons, executive director of National Coalition of Abortion Providers (NCAP) admitted to lying on a "Nightline" program in November 1995 for the sake of continuing partial-birth abortions. The lies were that partial-birth abortions were done rarely and in extreme circumstances.

Fitzsimmons later recanted and said in the March 3, 1997, edition of *American Medical News*, "When you're a doctor who does these abortions, and the leaders of your movement appear before Congress and ... say these procedures are done in only the most tragic of circumstances, how do you think it makes you feel? You know they are primarily done on healthy women and fetuses, and it makes you feel like a dirty little abortionist with a dirty little secret. I think we should tell them (Congress) the truth, let them vote and move on."

Congress voted to ban partial-birth abortions but President Clinton vetoed it.

McCorvey and Fitzsimmons are now pro-life activists.

Partial-birth abortions are more common than abortion proponents would have you think. According to a recent article in the Jan. 15, *Rocky Mountain News*, the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis was quoted as saying that partial-birth abortion is "the most common method of second-trimester abortion."

The Supreme Court hasn't yet declared it constitutional to kill human beings that are partially born. Perhaps it won't.

1-21-00 Coloradoan
B.J. Nikkel, a resident of Larimer County, was recently appointed by Gov. Bill Owens to Colorado's Eighth Judicial District's Judicial Nominating Commission. She welcomes comments to her column in care of the Coloradoan, P.O. Box 1577, Fort Collins, CO 80522, or e-mail: news@coloradoan.com.