



Question: Where Does Mark Stand on the Abortion Issue?

Answer: "Safe, Legal - and Rare"

A woman's access to basic medical care, more specifically the right to choose that care, has become one of the great political issues of the last 30 years. I believe that in its simplest form choice is a question between a woman and her doctor.

As a lay speaker at church, I have pondered the question's deep moral implications. Society, itself, has witnessed this dilemma. I believe many people understand that choosing to carry a pregnancy to term and offering a baby for adoption can be the correct choice. I believe that we also must understand that it is not always so.

Many of us recall the back alleys of the 1960's. As a father of two daughters, I will not risk a return to those days of less than full and proper medical care for women.

Roe v. Wade is *stare decisis*: in plain English, settled law upon which future abortion decisions must be based. I will stand up to insure that all women regardless of race or class have full and unfettered access to the first rate medical care that all in America believe our citizens deserve.

I also understand, and will fight for a regime in which improved education empowers women to make informed choices. Adoption is one of the real choices available and adoption in America needs to be updated to make it even more palatable. However, we should all try to understand that it might not work for everyone every time. The basic rights of the Reagan Exceptions—Rape, Incest and the Health of the Mother—are points on which I will never compromise.

I have listened and learned a great deal about this issue over the last 30 years. I would like to thank former New Jersey Governor, Christie Todd Whitman, who has provided tremendous and thoughtful leadership in protecting a woman's access to quality medical care. Governor Whitman's thoughts on the issue have helped to shape my own thinking and I applaud her for her leadership.

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