

Thinking back to my teen years in the 1950's, long before Roe v. Wade, I see how fortunate I was to have parents with the connections and the money to arrange for a safe abortion in New York City, with a practicing OB/GYN, who helped families like mine weather the storms of their teenagers' raging hormones.

How many more dopey teenagers in love were there who didn't have my advantage? How many young women were abandoned by scandalized families? How many were impregnated by family members? Were raped? How many left home, alone and frightened, to have their babies? How many harried housewives who already had more children than they could afford sought help? How many died at the hands of illegal abortionists?

Roe v. Wade took the fear and the stigma out of those years — except for the loud voices of the “pro-life” movement, which has been beating the drum to overturn that human rights-affirming Supreme Court decision of 1973.

We cannot allow them to take us back to the dark years pre-Roe.

What can caring Vermonters do?

Proposal 5, a Constitutional amendment, allows Vermonters an opportunity to preserve this freedom, no matter what happens in Washington D.C.

Our rights are at risk. Nationally, abortion rights are under attack. At the state level, over 400 abortion restrictions have gone into effect since 2011.

The Vermont Constitutional amendment, which does not change any current Vermont statute, simply upholds the will of Vermonters that an individual's right to personal reproductive autonomy is central to the liberty and dignity to determine their own life's course.

Prop 5, which has already passed the first years' approval in both the Vermont State House and Senate, must now pass a second round. Then it will be brought to a vote by Vermonters in the 2022 General Election. The soonest Prop 5, the Reproductive Liberty Act, could take place is Election Day 2022.

Let's make sure that this critical Constitutional Amendment is supported!

Respectfully submitted by  
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