

Abortion Rights: In a STATE OF EMERGENCY

Abortion and birth control are fundamental rights. Forcing women to have children against their will is a form of enslavement.

And if women—half of humanity—are not free, then no one is free.

Yet, forty-one years after the right to abortion was won, this right is hanging by a thread. Abortion is more stigmatized than ever before. Women are shamed and harassed for seeking abortions. Abortion is not available in nearly 90% of U.S. counties. Despite a “pro-choice” president, recent years have seen record numbers of anti-abortion restrictions across the country; 92 restrictions were passed in 2011 under Obama, shattering the previous record of 34 restrictions passed in 2005 under Bush. Doctors are stalked, terrorized and killed for providing abortions.

It is time to turn the tide.

In 2013 alone, 22 states adopted 70 different restrictions, including late-abortion bans, doctor and clinic regulations, limits on medication abortions and bans on insurance coverage.

In South Dakota now, weekends and holidays do not count as part of the mandatory 72-hour waiting period, meaning that in some circumstances women could be forced to wait six days between their first clinic visit and an abortion.

Bans on abortion at 20 weeks were passed in 12 states based on the anti-science theory of “fetal pain.” This violation of constitutional doctrine remains in effect in 9 states.

More than 200 anti-abortion measures were enacted by 30 states over the last three years.

Forced Motherhood is Female Enslavement.

24 states have barred abortion coverage by the new health exchanges and 9 of them forbid private insurance plans, as well, from covering most abortions.

Under a law passed in Texas in 2013:

- Doctors performing abortions are required to have local hospital admitting privileges. This forces about one-third of some 30 clinics in the state to stop performing abortions and leaves much of south Texas without any abortion clinics.
- Starting in September, costly surgery-center standards will be enforced on abortion clinics, even those that perform only the safest early-stage procedures or nonsurgical medication abortions. This requirement could leave the state of Texas with as few as 8 abortion centers.
- There are new, sharper restrictions on administering abortion pills.
- There is a ban on abortions after 20 weeks.

**ABORTION
ON DEMAND
& WITHOUT
APOLOGY**

StopPatriarchy.org

**Fetuses are not babies.
Abortion is not murder.
Women are not incubators.**

You cannot break all the chains, except one. You cannot say you want to be free of exploitation and oppression, except you want to keep the oppression of women by men. You can't say you want to liberate humanity yet keep one half of the people enslaved to the other half. The oppression of women is completely bound up with the division of society into masters and slaves, exploiters and exploited, and the ending of all such conditions is impossible without the complete liberation of women. All this is why women have a tremendous role to play not only in making revolution but in making sure there is all-the-way revolution. The fury of women can and must be fully unleashed as a mighty force for proletarian revolution.

—Bob Avakian
Chairman of the
Revolutionary
Communist Party, USA

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