



“HEALTH” OF THE MOTHER EXCEPTION = PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION FOR ANY REASON

“Health” of the Mother as Defined by the Supreme Court:

In the companion case to *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court declared “health” of the mother includes, “all factors—physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and the woman’s age— relevant to the wellbeing of the patient. All these factors may relate to health.”

—1973 Supreme Court decision *Doe v. Bolton*

<http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/getcase.pl?navby=CASE&court=US&vol=410&page=179>

Purely Elective = Health Exception

- Ohio abortionist Dr. Martin Haskell, who told the *American Medical News* in July 1993 that he had performed more than 1,000 partial-birth abortions said about the partial-birth procedures, “I’ll be quite frank: most of my abortions are elective in that 20-24 week range. ... In my particular case, probably 20% are for genetic reasons. And the other 80% performed are purely elective.”

Being a Teenager = Health Exception

- In his June 15, 1995 testimony before the House Judiciary Committee, Dr. James McMahon, one of the founders of the partial-birth abortion method, stated that, “After 26 weeks, those pregnancies that are not flawed are still non-elective. They are interrupted because of maternal risk, rape, incest, *psychiatric or pediatric indications*” (emphasis added). Dr. McMahon indicated that “pediatric indications” is his terminology for young teenage mothers.
- A National Abortion Federation letter dated June 12, 1995, sent to Members of the House of Representatives, noted that late abortions are sought by, among others, “very young teenagers...who have not recognized the signs of their pregnancies until too late.”

Depression = Health Exception

- Abortionist Dr. James McMahon, submitted a chart to the House Judiciary Committee in June 1995 describing partial-birth abortion procedures he had performed for “maternal indications.” He cited 39 partial-birth abortions that were performed because of the mother’s “depression.”

Fear of Open Places = Health Exception

- In his testimony in a 1995 lawsuit, Dr. Martin Haskell testified that women come to him for partial-birth abortions with “a variety of conditions. Some medical, some not so medical.” Among the “medical” examples he cited was “agoraphobia” (fear of open places).

—Transcript of testimony of Dr. Haskell on Nov. 8, 1995,
Women's Med Prof Corp. v. Voinovich, 911 F. Supp. 1051 (S.D. Ohio 1995).