



**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
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****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

April 19, 2007

STATEMENT BY SPEAKER CHRISTINE C. QUINN
Re: Supreme Court Decision Upholding Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act

Today is a dark day for women's health. In upholding the Federal Abortion Ban case, the United States Supreme Court has affirmed the Bush Administration's efforts to criminalize abortions in the second trimester of pregnancy and is moving toward stripping away the protections established in *Roe vs. Wade*. In making this decision, the United States Supreme Court has taken a giant step backwards in a woman's right to choose and to have control over her own body.

The Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act is alarming in its reach, and tramples on that most basic of human rights - the right to protect one's own health. This unjust law prohibits a medical procedure that numerous doctors agree is the safest option for women in most cases. It is always unfortunate when a woman has to choose an abortion, especially in the second trimester, but no legislature should have a right to decide what a woman can or cannot do to protect her health. That is a decision that must always be made based on individual medical circumstances.

Today's decision not only reverses three decades of judicial precedent; it opens the door for further attacks on reproductive freedoms by conservative ideologues. It is a sobering reminder of the need to continue to fight to preserve a woman's right to choose.

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