

THE PUBLIC FORUM ... EL FORO PÚBLICO...

We must protect woman's right to choice

Sunday is the 39th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion in the U.S. This safe, legal procedure must remain available to women as part of comprehensive reproductive health care. Proposed restrictions to legal abortion care are unacceptable and are opposed by the majority of the public as well as the premiere health organizations in the U.S. and worldwide—organizations we depend on to advise us on health issues. Spending time attempting to restrict a safe, legal, and accepted procedure is not what federal and state legislators were elected to office to focus on.

Unfortunately 2012 is shaping up to be another year of extremes. Many state legislators have already signaled support for or introduced extreme legislation that will ban or restrict abortion. Legislation that will harm the health of women include “personhood” initiatives — measures to declare a fertilized egg a person — or laws that requires restrictive regulations on health centers, and bills designed to eliminate funding for family planning services, Medicaid, or Planned Parenthood health services. We must not let this happen.

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