

If the right of privacy is overturned, I think that basic sense of safety and who we are in our homes and our own lives in our decisionmaking ability is threatened.

Ms. MICHELMAN. Well, Senator, I think it is difficult for most people to really envision a world without *Roe*. I think most people do not understand what havoc is going to come into play, when or if *Roe* is overturned. It is, as I said in my testimony, the right to choose is so profoundly fundamental to every other aspect of a woman's life, her family's life, that if it is destroyed, her life is destroyed. And I am not trying to be overly dramatic here.

It is just hard to describe how it feels to be utterly powerless to make a decision that has such a profoundly all-encompassing effect on not only the woman's life itself, whether she is able to have a job, whether she is able to continue her education, whether she is able to support the children she already has, but that decision affects her economic well-being, her physical and emotional well-being, her family's privacy.

One of the untold stories prior to *Roe* is the story of the numbers of children who were left motherless, because of the deaths of women from illegal abortions or self-induced abortions. It is a world that we do not want to contemplate, honestly.

People say sometimes to me, oh, you are exaggerating, there won't be a back alley abortion industry like there was before *Roe*. Well, they are wrong. The same people who push drugs on our children and our society are the same people who are going to try and take advantage of the desperation of women who face crisis pregnancies.

I think that there will be nothing but chaos in this Nation, when *Roe* is overturned, and I think that is why this right is so fundamental and we must require that Judge Thomas acknowledge that right, or he should not sit on the highest Court of the land.

Ms. WATTLETON. I am a nurse and I am, by profession, a nurse midwife and I was trained in the years when abortions were illegal in this country. I can never forget the desperate faces of healthy young women who suffered from the injury of illegal abortion. I can never forget the odor of infection as these women entered the hospital as a result of various objects being inserted into their vaginas and into their uteri to effect an abortion.

It is for that reason that I do not want to see women face that kind of degradation again. Mostly, I know that those were poor women and that those were my sisters, African-American women, and so I have a very personal and passionate interest in preserving the right for women to have safe, legal abortions that do not kill them.

There is much that is given to romancing the notion that abortion, if given to the States, will not be illegal, and that, anyway, States are involved in a reform process that the Supreme Court decision in 1973 took away from them.

A closer reading of the history will reveal no such evidence. In fact, after a few States in the early 1970's legalized their repressive laws, no other States were able to move, repeal, or reform legislation, and even in those States where there had been some reform, the rules for a woman to get through in order to have a legal abortion were formidable.