



## national asian pacific american women's forum

**napawf**

1050 17<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Ste 250  
Washington, DC 20036  
T (202) 293-2688; F (202) 293-4507  
[www.napawf.org](http://www.napawf.org)

December 18, 2006

Dear NAPAWF sisters,

On January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court announced its decision in *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark case that legalized abortion in the United States. The Court recognized for the first time that the constitutional right to privacy "is broad enough to encompass a woman's decision whether or not to terminate her pregnancy." At the time the decision was handed down, abortions were illegal in nearly every state except under limited circumstances, such as saving the woman's life, preserving the woman's health, or in instances of rape, incest, or fetal anomaly. The decision in *Roe* rendered the states' outlaw of abortion unconstitutional, and set an important legal precedent that influenced nearly 30 subsequent Supreme Court decisions involving access to abortions.

January 22, 2007 marks the 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*. In celebration and remembrance, NAPAWF encourages its chapters to educate members, allies, and communities about the importance of *Roe* and the continuing struggle to make abortion affordable and accessible to all women. Enclosed is a *Roe* anniversary toolkit, which includes the following materials:

- NAPAWF fact sheets about API women and reproductive health
- A sample press release
- A resource guide with a suggested list of reading and research materials
- A list of local *Roe* anniversary events and suggested activities

Abortion represents a real option for many Asian and Pacific Islander (API) women. Between 1994-2000, abortion rates fell for all racial groups *except* API women. National data reveals that API women have the second highest rate of abortion utilization in the country. Approximately 35 % of pregnancies end in abortion for API women, compared to 18 % for white women. For immigrant Asian women, current immigration laws deny them the fundamental human right to access culturally and linguistically appropriate health care, including abortion services.

NAPAWF believes that reproductive justice is achieved when all women and girls have the ability to make well-informed decisions about their bodies, health, sexuality, families, and communities. It is connected to broader struggles for social justice and human rights. Although thirty-four years have passed since the *Roe* decision, the fight to secure reproductive justice is far from over.

In sisterhood,

NAPAWF National



## **national asian pacific american women's forum**

**napawf**

1050 17<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Ste 250

Washington, DC 20036

T (202) 293-2688; F (202) 293-4507

[www.napawf.org](http://www.napawf.org)

For Immediate Release  
DATE

Contact: YOUR NAME  
YOUR CONTACT INFO

### **CELEBRATING 34 YEARS OF ROE; THE FIGHT FOR REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE CONTINUES**

Washington, DC – January 22, 2007 marks the 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Supreme Court's landmark case, Roe v. Wade, which held that the fundamental right of privacy encompasses a woman's decision to terminate her pregnancy. For 34 years the principles underlying Roe have influenced subsequent Supreme Court and federal cases and policies related to abortion, reproductive health, sexual freedom, and autonomy.

"Roe represented an historic turning point in achieving reproductive justice for all women," states Kiran Ahuja, Executive Director of NAPAWF. "January 22<sup>nd</sup> is a day to celebrate this victory and remind communities and policymakers of the importance of providing all women with real choices when making decisions about their bodies, health and families."

Abortion represents a real option for many Asian Pacific Islander (API) women. National data reveals that 35% of pregnancies end in abortion for API women, the second highest percentage for all racial and ethnic groups. In addition, between 1994-2000, abortion rates fell for all groups except API women. Another study found that over two-thirds of API women are sexually active, yet less than 40% regularly use contraception, increasing their risk of unintended pregnancy and abortion.

Although abortion is legal in every state, over the years opponents have sought to chip away at Roe by prohibiting federal funding for abortion services, enacting dangerous parental notification laws, restricting access to contraception, supporting abstinence-only programs, and introducing mandatory waiting periods. For many women, particularly low-income and women of color, barriers to accessing abortion services render "the right to choose" essentially meaningless.

"We need to ensure that every woman has the ability to exercise her fundamental right to choose to have an abortion," said Ahuja. Despite victories during the 2006 election, where voters rejected parental notification laws and abortion bans, the fight continues to ensure reproductive freedom. "The time is now to make the protections and principles embodied in Roe a reality for all women in this country."

###

NAPAWF is the only national multi-issue organization dedicated to building a movement to advance social justice and human rights for Asian and Pacific American women and girls. NAPAWF unites our diverse communities through organizing, education and advocacy.



## national asian pacific american women's forum

napawf

1050 17<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Ste 250

Washington, DC 20036

T (202) 293-2688; F (202) 293-4507

[www.napawf.org](http://www.napawf.org)

### **LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ISSUES!**

NAPAWF collaborates with several ally organizations. In addition to [www.napawf.org](http://www.napawf.org), check out these websites for more information about Roe v. Wade and reproductive justice issues.

#### **Planned Parenthood Federation of America ([www.plannedparenthood.org](http://www.plannedparenthood.org))**

Fact sheets, reports, and current events from the country's leading reproductive health provider. For a good overview of *Roe*, check out:

- *Roe v. Wade: Its History and Impact*  
<http://www.plannedparenthood.org/news-articles-press/politics-policy-issues/courts-judiciary/roe-v-wade-6578.htm>

#### **Center for Reproductive Rights ([www.crlp.org](http://www.crlp.org))**

Great fact sheets, publications, and resources on domestic and international reproductive rights issues. Includes:

- *Making Abortion Safe, Legal and Accessible: A Toolkit for Action*  
[http://www.crlp.org/pub\\_toolkit\\_for\\_action.html](http://www.crlp.org/pub_toolkit_for_action.html)
- *What if Roe Fell? The State-by-State Consequences of Overturning Roe v. Wade*  
[http://www.crlp.org/pub\\_bo\\_whatifroefell.html](http://www.crlp.org/pub_bo_whatifroefell.html)
- *30 Faces of Roe: Personal Perspectives on the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Roe v. Wade*  
[http://www.crlp.org/crt\\_roe\\_30faces.html](http://www.crlp.org/crt_roe_30faces.html)
- *The World's Abortion Laws*  
[http://www.crlp.org/pub\\_fac\\_abortion\\_laws.html](http://www.crlp.org/pub_fac_abortion_laws.html)

#### **NARAL Pro-Choice America ([www.prochoiceamerica.org](http://www.prochoiceamerica.org))**

Another valuable resource for information on a range of reproductive rights and reproductive health issues. Some highlights:

- *Breaking Barriers* (A policy action kit that addresses the obstacles women of color face accessing quality reproductive-health care and provide solutions)  
<http://www.prochoiceamerica.org/issues/women-of-color/breaking-barriers.html>
- *Who Decides? The Status of Reproductive Rights in the United States*  
[http://www.prochoiceamerica.org/choice-action-center/in\\_your\\_state/who-decides/](http://www.prochoiceamerica.org/choice-action-center/in_your_state/who-decides/)

#### **SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Health Collective ([www.sistersong.net](http://www.sistersong.net))**

Check out the interactive map documenting sexual and reproductive rights laws in every state. Includes information on same-sex marriage laws, access to birth control, and social security benefits.

- *Mapping Our Rights: Navigating Discrimination Against Women, Men and Families*  
[http://www.ipcas.org/mapping/final\\_map.asp](http://www.ipcas.org/mapping/final_map.asp)



**national asian pacific american women's forum**  
**napawf**

1050 17<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Ste 250  
Washington, DC 20036  
T (202) 293-2688; F (202) 293-4507  
[www.napawf.org](http://www.napawf.org)

**Choice USA ([www.choiceusa.org](http://www.choiceusa.org))**

Fact sheets available on reproductive health for teens and young women.

**Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice ([www.reproductivejustice.org](http://www.reproductivejustice.org))**

Download a copy of *A New Vision for Reproductive Justice*, a great paper that describes the reproductive justice model of analysis.

<http://www.reproductivejustice.org/reproductive.html>

**National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health ([www.latinainstitute.org](http://www.latinainstitute.org))**

Great fact sheets and reports available on Latinas, immigrant women, and reproductive justice issues. Many documents are also available in Spanish.

<http://latinainstitute.org/publications.html>

**Hyde—30 Years Is Enough! Campaign ([www.hyde30years.nnaf.org/](http://www.hyde30years.nnaf.org/))**

Spearheaded by the National Network of Abortion Funds, find talking points, flyers and state by state info about the impact of the Hyde Amendment on low-income women of color.



## national asian pacific american women's forum

napawf

1050 17<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Ste 250  
Washington, DC 20036  
T (202) 293-2688; F (202) 293-4507  
[www.napawf.org](http://www.napawf.org)

### **GET ACTIVE!**

PARTICIPATE IN A LOCAL *ROE V. WADE* ANNIVERSARY EVENT

#### **Washington, D.C.**

- 1/23 The Hyde Amendment: An Attack on Reproductive Health Within Communities of Color, at Busboys and Poets.  
<http://napawf.org/page.php?view=events>
- 1/25 NARAL dinner, at Omni Shoreham Hotel  
<http://www.prochoiceamerica.org/support-us/events/roe34.html>
- 1/25 Virginia pro-choice lobby day  
[http://www.ppaction.org/ppav/events/2007lobbyday\\_clone\\_889001/details.tcl](http://www.ppaction.org/ppav/events/2007lobbyday_clone_889001/details.tcl)

#### **Chicago, IL**

- 1/25 Planned Parenthood Chicago Area anniversary celebration, at the Ritz-Carlton  
<http://www.plannedparenthood.org/chicago/roe-v-wade-anniversary-celebration.htm>

#### **Los Angeles, CA**

- 1/22 Orange County NOW protest, in the Circle of Orange  
[http://www.progressivecalendar.net/view\\_event.php?day=22&month=1&year=2007&recno=14](http://www.progressivecalendar.net/view_event.php?day=22&month=1&year=2007&recno=14)

#### **San Francisco, CA**

- 1/20 Bay Area Coalition on Reproductive Rights demonstration, (counter to the "Walk for Life")  
<http://www.bacorr.org/article.php?id=68>

#### **College campuses**

Organize a campaign, getting involved, or start a chapter of the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance (FMLA) or Vox  
[http://feministcampus.org/fmla/about/groups\\_by\\_state.asp](http://feministcampus.org/fmla/about/groups_by_state.asp)  
<http://www.plannedparenthood.org/vox/>

CREATE YOUR OWN *ROE V. WADE* ANNIVERSARY EVENT

#### **Organize!**

Download an activist toolkit from SaveROE.com for tips on how to organize a letter-writing campaign, write an op-ed, coordinate a lobby day, and other visibility events.  
<http://www.saveroe.com/actiontools/activist-toolkit>



## national asian pacific american women's forum

### napawf

1050 17<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Ste 250  
Washington, DC 20036  
T (202) 293-2688; F (202) 293-4507  
[www.napawf.org](http://www.napawf.org)

#### **Show a film!**

*Abortion Diaries* (all public screening fees will be waived during Roe week)

<http://www.theabortiondiaries.com/host.htm>

*The Education of Shelby Knox*

<http://www.pbs.org/pov/pov2005/shelbyknox/>

*Speak Out: I Had an Abortion*

<http://www.speakoutfilms.com/film.html>

*Frontline: The Last Abortion Clinic* (watch it for free online)

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/clinic/>

#### **Be a clinic escort!**

Reproductive health clinics around the country are often held under siege by anti-choice protesters who try to intimidate or harass clinic patients. Many cities have organized all-volunteer clinic escorts to provide safe and peaceful access for patients trying to access these clinics, particularly around the anniversary of *Roe*, when anti-choices flock to protest at reproductive health clinics.

Washington (D.C.) Area Clinic Defense Task Force

<http://www.wacdtf.org/>

Brooklyn Pro-Choice Network

<http://www.echonyc.com/~bpcn/>

Planned Parenthood (nation-wide): check out their volunteer page to see what clinics are in need of escorts

<http://www.plannedparenthood.org/get-involved/jobs-and-volunteer.asp>

#### **Participate in a letter writing campaign!**

Support responsible sexuality education through the ACLU/Take issue, take charge! campaign

<http://www.takeissuecharge.org/blog/>

Sign the "Two Million for Roe" petition

[http://www.ppaction.org/campaign/roberts\\_roeCall](http://www.ppaction.org/campaign/roberts_roeCall)

#### **Fundraise for a local abortion fund!**

The right to choose means little for women who face financial barriers to obtaining timely abortion services. The National Network of Abortion Funds (NNAF) is an association of abortion funds across the country that provide financial assistance for women seeking abortions. Hold a fundraiser and donate the proceeds to your local abortion fund.

[www.nnaf.org](http://www.nnaf.org)



# national asian pacific american women's forum

**napawf**

1050 17<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W., Ste 250

Washington, DC 20036

T (202) 293-2688; F (202) 293-4507

[www.napawf.org](http://www.napawf.org)

## **NAPAWF Resources**

Check out [www.napawf.org](http://www.napawf.org) for fact sheets and issue briefs on various Asian and Pacific Islander Women and Reproductive Justice topics:

- [The Supreme Court and the Federal Abortion Ban](#) – 11/06
- [Emergency Contraception and API Women Brief](#) - 10/06
- [Proposition 85 Fact Sheet](#) - 10/06
- [Hyde Amendment - 30 Years is Enough!](#) - 8/06
- [Human Papillomavirus \(HPV\) Brief](#) - 6/06
- [Nail Salon Brief](#) - 5/06
- [Sex Selection Fact Sheet](#) - 12/05
- [APA Women and Ayotte v. Planned Parenthood](#) - 9/05
- [Proposition 73 Opposition Statement](#) - Fall 2005
- [Proposition 73 Fact Sheet](#) - 9/05
- [Expanding Reproductive Choice for Young APA Women: A Fact Sheet](#) - 4/05
- [Abortion and APA Women: A Fact Sheet](#) - 3/05
- [Reproductive Health Care and APA Women: A Fact Sheet](#) - 2/05
- [Medicaid and APA Women: A Fact Sheet](#) - 2/05
- [NAPAWF Statement on Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act](#) - 2005