Our Bodies, Our Rights: What’s Going On at the Supreme Court?

Part 1: What is an abortion?
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Words to Know in Part 1
Abortion

When a person decides to end their pregnancy without giving birth.

Bodily autonomy

The right of people to control what happens to their bodies. Bodily autonomy means people get to make their own decisions about their bodies.

Fetus

The new human growing inside a pregnant person.
**Medication abortion**

When a pregnant person takes pills to end their pregnancy.

**Self-determination**

The right to make choices about your own life. Self-determination means people get to choose what they do with their lives.

**Surgical abortion**

When a pregnant person has surgery to end their pregnancy.
What is an abortion?

When a person is pregnant, they have a new human growing inside of them.

This new human is called a fetus.

An abortion is when a person decides to end their pregnancy without giving birth.

After getting an abortion, a person isn’t pregnant anymore.
(We say “pregnant people” instead of “women” to include all people who can get pregnant.

Some transgender men and non-binary people can get pregnant.

Also, not all women can get pregnant.)
There are a couple ways that abortions happen.

One is a \textit{medication abortion}.

This is where a pregnant person takes pills to end their pregnancy.

Another is a \textit{surgical abortion}.

This is when a pregnant person has surgery to end their pregnancy.
People have lots of arguments about abortion.

Some people say that abortion should be illegal.

Other people say that abortion should be legal.
ASAN believes that abortion should always be legal.

We believe people have the right to bodily autonomy and self-determination.

**Bodily autonomy** means people control what happens to their bodies.

Bodily autonomy means people get to make their own decisions about their bodies.
All people have the right to bodily autonomy.

**Self-determination** is the right to make choices about your own life.

Self-determination means people get to choose what they do with their lives.

All people have the right to self-determination.
When abortion is illegal, pregnant people can’t decide to get an abortion if they need one.

That interferes with pregnant people’s bodily autonomy. It interferes with pregnant people’s self-determination.
Right now, abortion is legal in some states.

Abortion is not legal in other states.

We will talk about why this is in a later section.