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Easy Read Edition

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

**Part 2: Why does abortion
matter to people with
disabilities?**

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Words to Know in Part 2



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.



Self-determination

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

Why does abortion matter to people with disabilities?



People have abortions for lots of reasons.



We think that about 1 in 4 women will have an abortion.

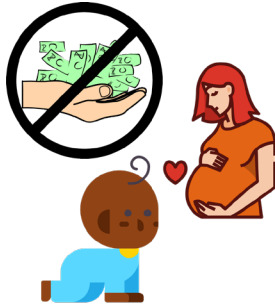


(We say “women” here because the study only looked at women who get abortions.)

Some reasons people get abortions are:



- They do not want to be pregnant and have a child.



- They cannot afford to be pregnant and have a child.



- It is not the right time for them to be pregnant and have a child.



- They do not want to be pregnant and have a child in their current relationship.



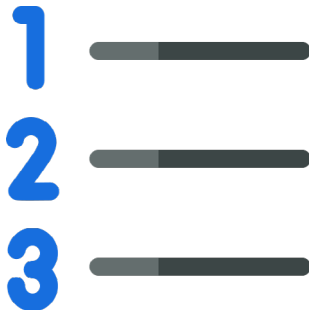
- They have children who they need to focus on. Being pregnant and having another child would take away from that.



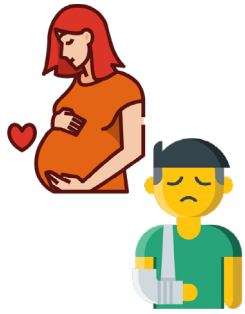
Abortion matters to people with disabilities for a lot of reasons.



The reasons we just talked about are also important to people with disabilities.



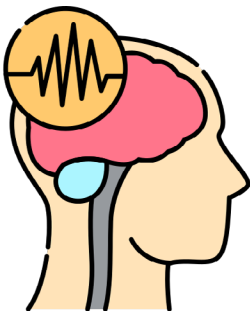
Here are more reasons why abortion matters to people with disabilities.



For some pregnant people with disabilities, pregnancy would hurt them.



Getting pregnant would make their disability worse.



For example, [epilepsy](#) can get really bad during pregnancy.



Epilepsy is a disability that causes seizures.



Epilepsy during pregnancy can kill the pregnant person or the fetus.



If a person with disabilities gets pregnant, they may not want to risk their disability getting worse.



Some people with disabilities take medication that would hurt the fetus if they got pregnant.



For example, a lot of medications that people take [for mental health disabilities](#) can hurt fetuses.



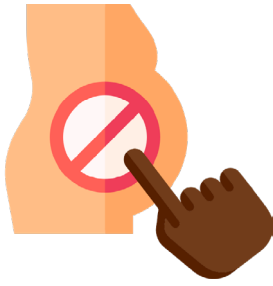
But a lot of people with disabilities who take medication can't easily go off their medication.



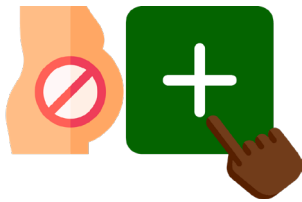
If they go off their medication, their disabilities could get worse.



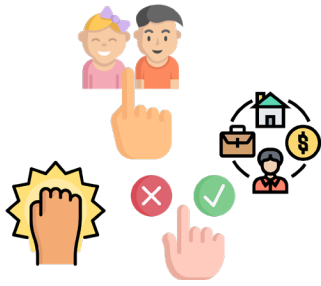
Or they might have really bad side effects from going off their medications.



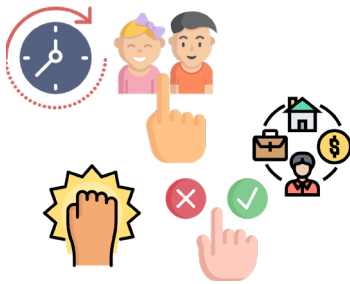
Some pregnant people who take medication choose abortion.



They feel abortion is the best choice for them.



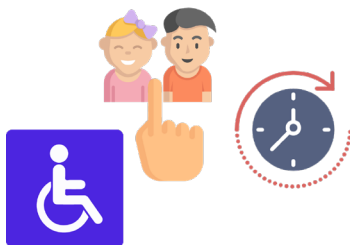
Being able to choose if we have children is a part of bodily autonomy and self-determination.



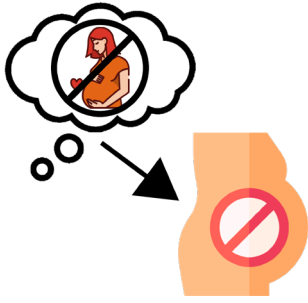
Being able to choose when we have children is a part of bodily autonomy and self-determination.



People with disabilities should be able to choose if we have children.



People with disabilities should be able to choose when we get pregnant.



If we don't want to be pregnant, we should be able to get an abortion.



People with disabilities have a long history of other people not respecting our bodily autonomy or self-determination.



Having the right to get abortions is one way we can have bodily autonomy and self-determination.