

CONCERNED
WOMEN *for* AMERICA
OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Letter to the editor

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America values life — the Supreme Court needs to catch up

The *Dobb's v Jackson Women's Health Organization* case before the Supreme Court challenges a Mississippi law that restricts abortions after 15 weeks. The question is whether all pre-viability prohibitions on elective abortions are unconstitutional. This case is an opportunity for the court to catch up to the 21st century. Scientific advances in fetal imaging have brought light into the womb. A 15-week-old baby has eyes and eyelids with a well-formed face, hands and feet with fingers and toes. The baby is already making red blood cells, and other organs are fast developing. Muscle and bones grow and become harder, making it possible for the child to move. We've all seen the images of the child making a fist or sucking their thumb. They feel pain.

According to the Charlotte Lozier Institute, from 15 weeks onward the fetus is extremely sensitive to painful stimuli, and this fact should be taken into account when performing invasive medical procedures on the fetus. It is necessary to apply adequate analgesia to prevent the suffering of the fetus. To refuse prohibitions on elective abortions is unethical and barbaric.

Americans overwhelmingly support a ban on late-term abortion and restricting it during the first trimester. A recent Marist poll found 75% of Americans, including 61% of those who identify as pro-choice, say abortion should be banned at the very least after the first trimester. Americans value life. Time for the Supreme Court to catch up.

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