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WVFL Corrects Confusion about *Amicus* Brief

Recent news articles have been incorrectly describing an important *Amicus* Brief filed by National Right to Life and Louisiana Right to Life. These news articles are incorrect in saying that the *Amicus* Brief calls for the Supreme Court to reverse *Roe vs. Wade*. The *Amicus* Brief deals with a very narrow section of the Supreme Court's rulings in several different abortion cases.

National Right to Life and Louisiana Right to Life have joined in support of Louisiana's "Unsafe Abortion Protection Act," which requires abortion doctors to have admitting privileges with a local hospital. It was passed in response to numerous health and safety violations found in Louisiana abortion clinics.

The Louisiana law was deemed unconstitutional by lower courts based on the principle that laws are unconstitutional when they put an "undue burden" on a woman's right to choose abortion. The constitutionality of the law turns on the definition of the term "undue burden." The definition required by *Roe vs. Wade* prevented virtually any protective legislation from being passed. However, in 1992, in *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania vs. Casey*, the Supreme Court determined that laws that protect the health and well-being of women having abortions did not constitute an "undue burden," thus allowing for these laws to be constitutional.

The *Amicus* Brief, thus, requests that the Supreme Court use the standard governing the term "undue burden" as found in *Casey*, not the one found in *Roe vs. Wade*. The *Amicus* Brief asks only for reversal of the definition of "undue burden," **not** the reversal of *Roe vs. Wade*.

While the goal of West Virginians for Life (WVFL) is for *Roe vs. Wade* to be reversed, the organization calls on the Supreme Court to use the "undue burden" standard to allow states' rights to protect women from unsafe practices at abortion clinics.

West Virginians for Life, the state affiliate of the National Right to Life Committee, is the state's largest pro-life group with more than 35 local pro-life chapters. West Virginians for Life works through education, legislation and political action to protect those threatened by abortion, infanticide and euthanasia.

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