



## A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE

*"I strongly support a woman's right to privacy and reproductive choices. It is essential to the full equality and dignity of women, and today it is under attack. I will guarantee this right."*  
– John Edwards

The decision about whether to become a parent is one of the most important life decisions that a woman can face. She should make it with her family, her doctor, and in the context of her religious and ethical values; government and politicians should not make the decision for her. John Edwards supports a woman's constitutional right to choose. As a senator, Edwards earned a 100 percent voting record with both NARAL and Planned Parenthood. As president, he will protect and defend the right to choose and reverse the damage that has been done by President Bush's anti-choice agenda.

**PROTECTING REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS:** The right to choose and the right to privacy are fundamental constitutional rights. Edwards strongly supports those rights as recognized by *Roe v. Wade*. He supports a federal freedom of choice act codifying *Roe v. Wade* into federal law so that the right to choose is protected no matter what the Supreme Court does. He opposes legislation that would undermine reproductive freedom and choice, like the Unborn Victims of Violence Act.

**ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES:** Edwards opposes the anti-choice movement's efforts to restrict health choices for women who depend on the government for their health care needs. He supports public funding of abortion services for low-income women. While in the Senate, he voted against restrictions on funding for abortions for federal employees and District of Columbia residents. He also opposes the Child Custody Protection Act and other measures that unduly burden a young woman's right to choose and endanger her health.

**JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS:** As a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Edwards opposed President Bush's anti-choice nominees for federal courts who would put their extremist personal views above a woman's right to choose. He opposed the nominations of Priscilla Owen, Bill Pryor, Charles Pickering, and others. As president, he will nominate judges who have demonstrated their commitment to Americans' full range of constitutional protections.

**GAG RULES:** Edwards opposes laws that prohibit health care professionals from counseling, referring, or providing information to patients about the option of abortion, including the "global gag rule" that prohibits overseas organizations receiving family planning aid from using their own funds to provide information about abortion services.

**BAN ON PROCEDURES:** Edwards opposes bans on abortion procedures (such as the so-called "partial birth" legislation) that do not include an adequate exception to protect a woman's health.

**PREVENTING UNWANTED PREGNANCIES:** Edwards supports steps to guarantee reproductive choices and reduce unwanted pregnancies, including access to birth control and Title X family planning services. Edwards believes all health insurance plans that cover prescription drugs should cover prescription contraceptives and we must improve access to emergency contraception. He supports comprehensive, age-appropriate sex education for young people that includes information on both abstinence and contraception.

410 Market St., Suite 400 ★ Chapel Hill, NC 27516 ★ phone (919) 636-3131 ★ fax (919) 967-3644 ★ [www.johnedwards.com](http://www.johnedwards.com)

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