

Mr. CHABOT. Thank you very much.

I would note one of the things I—before I yield to the gentleman from Arizona, our votes finished up for the day and the week earlier today, so we have no more votes today. The good thing is that we won't be inconvenienced by votes—

Mr. NADLER. In that case, Mr. Chairman, I move we adjourn. [Laughter.]

Mr. CHABOT. We won't be inconvenienced with having to go over and vote, so we should be able to go right through this hearing. The bad thing is that many Members have a tendency to head back to their districts as soon as votes are over for the week. And so even though this is a topic of significant interest to an awful lot of people on both sides of the *Roe* decision, there may not be quite as many Members here, and that's why, because the votes are finished for the week.

I would now yield—

Mr. NADLER. Can we ask twice as many questions then?

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Nadler can ask twice as many questions, if he'd like to.

The gentleman from Arizona, Mr. Franks, is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANKS. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I want to thank you for holding this hearing and to thank each of the witnesses for being here and just all of the people there in the chamber.

You know, I think it's important to remember today why we were really all called to this place, why we're here in this chamber. The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the belief that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

*Roe v. Wade* was a desecration of that foundational belief, and it sets itself apart from all of the other egregious decisions that courts have made over the years in that it has resulted in the killing of one-third of an entire generation of Americans—45 million children are now dead, and as we speak, that cataclysmic heart-break continues.

And no matter the rhetoric, each time an abortion takes place, a nameless little baby dies a tragic death. And all the gifts he or she might have brought to humanity are lost forever. And a bereaved mother, whether she realizes it or not immediately, is never really the same.

Mr. Chairman, the abortion on demand error that *Roe v. Wade* forced upon America has made the abortion industry wealthy, but it has emotionally impoverished the mothers who are the second victims in that tragedy. And I know that we will probably hear today from the women who have had abortions that statistically those who have are far more subject to depression, to substance abuse, to relationship problems, or suicide. Some are left infertile for life. *Roe v. Wade* and its progeny has forced all of this upon the women of this country.

And, Mr. Chairman, with your permission I have here 2,000 affidavits from women who have had abortions. They wanted their testimony, their story about their pain as a result of abortion, to be

recorded here on the record. And I ask that these affidavits be accepted for submission into the record.

Mr. CHABOT. Without objection, so ordered.

[The information referred to is available in the Appendix.]

Mr. FRANKS. Mr. Chairman, I think it's impossible, I suppose, for all of us to understand the impact that abortion has had on the women of the country, but I don't even think we realize as a people what the current reality of the law is. The courts, through *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* and the cases that followed, leave us with no truly enforceable laws to protect unborn children from elective abortion at any age or any stage of the 9 months of pregnancy. Even the bill we passed to protect unborn children from the indescribable nightmare of partial-birth abortion passed by both the House and the Senate and signed into law by the President has been challenged as unconstitutional. And now the Supreme Court is once again going to determine whether Congress can protect living, kicking, half-born babies from this horrific, barbaric procedure.

Our courts, in overreaching their authority, have become the greatest threat to the survival of this Republic, and we should remember that at one time our courts determined in their infamous *Dred Scott v. Sanford* decision that all Blacks, slaves as well as free, were not and could never become citizens of the United States of America. The Supreme Court determined that Blacks "had no rights which the White man was bound to respect and that the Negro might justly and lawfully be reduced to slavery for his benefit."

We can all see the sickness in that reasoning today. But it was a sickness that precipitated a civil war and the greatest loss of American life in the history of our Nation—600,000 dead soldiers, husbands, fathers, sons, and brothers.

And now, Mr. Chairman, *Roe v. Wade* has returned that sickness to America, and the battlefield today is covered with over 45 million dead children who never raised a hand against anybody.

Mr. Chairman, a defining moment is upon America, and it's time for *Roe v. Wade*, the bloodiest decision in the history of humanity, to take its place along the *Dred Scott* decision in the ash heap of history.

Mr. Chairman, the right to life is the first civil right. It is the first most basic right that any human being has.

Thank you, sir.

Mr. CHABOT. Thank you very much, Mr. Franks.

The gentleman from Iowa, Mr. King, is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KING. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I want to thank the witnesses for appearing here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding this hearing today, and if I could just lay out some parameters. I can't add to the eloquence of my colleague from Arizona, but perhaps I can add a little to the argument.

And, often, well, anybody that's under age, I'll say, 40 years old didn't live in the day before the first Supreme Court decision sent us down this path. And anyone who wasn't of the age of legal understanding by 1965 didn't understand it when it unfolded, and I think that perhaps there aren't very many people alive today that really understood what happened in 1965 when the infamous case,