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2014 - On January 26, a brain dead, pregnant Texas woman was pulled off life support after a court order was issued in favor of her family's wishes. The woman was 14 weeks pregnant when her husband found her unconscious on the kitchen floor in November. Doctors pronounced her brain dead but the hospital determined that state law required them to keep her on life support since she was pregnant, even though the fetus was not viable and her family wished to pull her off support. The case was closely watched by people on both sides of the debate.

2013 - On October 9, California governor Jerry Brown signs a bill into law that allows non-practitioner--midwives, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants, to perform first trimester abortions, expanding access to abortion. California was the first state to expand access to abortion in 2013. Meanwhile, in Ohio new budgetary limitations and rules regulating hospitals force many of the state's abortion clinics to shut down.

2013 - On August 23, the *Irish Times* confirms that the first legal abortion has been performed in Ireland. The country relaxed its 1867 ban to allow abortions in order to save a woman's life following the controversial death of a 31-year-old woman who died after doctors refused to perform an emergency abortion even though there was no hope for the fetus's survival.

2013 - On May 28 the Supreme Court refuses to hear two cases involving attempts to defund Planned Parenthood in Indiana. The decision lets stand lower court rulings striking down the state law that prevented Planned Parenthood from receiving Medicaid funds because some clinics provide abortions using other funding sources. Similar laws have been passed or introduced in 14 other states.

2013 - Beginning in April, France will cover the costs of abortions for women and provide anonymous, free birth control for girls aged 15–18. The measures are part of Prime Minister Francois Hollande's campaign promise to promote women's reproductive rights.

2013 - The Arkansas legislature votes to override the governor's veto and pass the strictest abortion law in the nation. The new law bans most abortions after 12 weeks if a fetal heartbeat can be detected.

2012 - In early February, the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure Foundation, the nation's largest breast cancer advocacy group, announces that it will no longer provide funding to Planned Parenthood because the group is the subject of a congressional investigation by right-to-life advocates. In the face of growing controversy, a few days later the foundation announces that it will allow Planned Parenthood to apply for new grants after all.

2012 - As of January 1, minors in New Hampshire are required to inform a parent or obtain a court order before obtaining an abortion. The law had originally been vetoed by the governor, who argued that there should be exceptions for rape, incest, and abuse.

2012 - A new law in Arkansas requires that facilities that perform ten or more nonsurgical abortions undergo the same health department inspections as those providing surgical abortions. The law is said to be directed at Planned Parenthood clinics that provide abortion pills.

2011 - On November 8, Mississippi voters reject a proposal to amend the state constitution to define a person as "every human being from the moment of fertilization, cloning, or the functional equivalent thereof." The measure would have outlawed abortion as well as certain methods of birth control and potentially some fertility treatment practices.

2011 - An Idaho woman files suit challenging a 1972 state law making it illegal to terminate one's own pregnancy and the state's more recent law against abortions after 20-weeks gestation. The woman had been charged after using RU486, which she obtained over the Internet, to end her pregnancy.

2011 - Legislatures in Indiana, Kansas, North Carolina, and Wisconsin vote to de-fund Planned Parenthood. The organization in Indiana says 9,300 Planned Parenthood patients who rely on Medicaid will see their care disrupted. In Wisconsin, the legislature sends Gov. Scott Walker a state budget with a similar provision aimed at defunding the organization. Reduced availability of federal funds leads to a planned shut-down of six Planned Parenthood locations in Minnesota.

2011 - On March 22, South Dakota governor Dennis Daugaard signs a law requiring women seeking an abortion to consult a "pregnancy help center" regarding programs available "to help the mother keep and care for her child." Unlike other state laws that require counseling prior to obtaining an abortion, the pregnancy help centers in South Dakota are primarily concerned with preventing abortion.

2011 - The Ohio Senate passes a budget bill with amendments that will severely interfere with a woman's reproductive rights. The two amendments will prevent public hospitals from performing abortions and bar use of public funds to pay for health care plans that allow abortion.

2011 - In Illinois, an appellate court reverses and remands a Cook County Circuit Court decision upholding the 1995 Parental Notice of Abortion Act. "The Act" requires a parent or guardian to be notified 48 hours before a child under 18 has an abortion. Illinois is the only Midwest state without a parental notice or consent law in effect.

2011 - Texas governor Rick Perry signs into law a bill that will disallow women from getting an abortion without first having a sonogram of the fetus, listening to a description of or seeing the sonogram image, and hearing or having the fetal heartbeat described to her by the doctor.

2011 - The Republican-dominated Alabama legislature passes a bill that bans abortions after the 20th week of pregnancy, even in cases of incest and rape.

2011 - In Minnesota, Democratic governor Mark Dayton vetoes two abortion related laws. The first law, deemed The Pain Capable Unborn Child Act, would have banned women from undergoing abortions after the 20th week of pregnancy. The second is a measure that would have banned taxpayer funding for abortion.

2011 - As noted by the Guttmacher Institute, by the end of the first quarter of the year, 15 new laws are enacted in 7 different states that restrict abortion rights, including regulations that expand mandatory waiting periods, expand mandatory counseling, limit insurance coverage for the procedure, and allow hospital employees to opt out of participating in abortions.

2010 - Scott Roeder is found guilty of first degree murder for the 2009 fatal shooting of George Tiller while he was attending church. Tiller was one of the few doctors who performed late-term abortions in the United States, and his practice in Wichita, Kansas, was permanently closed following his death.

2009 - President Barack Obama repeals rules that restrict federal money for international organizations that promote family planning in developing nations.

2008 - In an 8–3 ruling, Mexico's supreme court upholds a law legalizing abortion in Mexico City.

2008 - A U.S. Court of Appeals strikes down a Virginia law banning late-term abortions because it does not protect doctors who intend to perform legal abortions but accidentally deliver the fetus to the point where intact dilation and extraction—a prohibited procedure—must be performed.

2008 - The British Parliament rejects a range of proposals to reduce the time limit for obtaining an abortion from the current 24 weeks of pregnancy to as few as 12 weeks. The proposals mark the first major abortion debate in Great Britain since a 1990 law changed the legal limit from 28 weeks to 24 weeks.

2007 - On April 24, Mexico City becomes the largest city in Latin America to legalize abortion.

2007 - On April 18, the U.S. Supreme Court upholds the Partial Abortion Ban Act, saying that the law does not violate a woman's constitutional right to an abortion.

2005 - In April, Gov. Janet Napolitano of Arizona vetoes a bill that would give pharmacists the right to refuse services, on religious or moral grounds, related to abortion and emergency contraception.

2004 - On December 8, President George W. Bush signs into law a spending bill that includes a provision protecting health care providers from being forced to participate in abortions against their conscience.

2003 - On March 13, the U.S. Senate passes a bill to ban nationwide the practice of partial-birth abortion.

2002 - President George W. Bush signs the Born Alive Infants Protection Act, which declares that every infant born alive is considered a person under federal law.

2000 - The U.S. Supreme Court rules in *Stenberg v. Carhart* that a Nebraska statute prohibiting so-called "partial-birth" abortions is unconstitutional because there is no exception for preserving the life or health of the mother, and it places an undue burden on a woman's decision to choose to have an abortion.

1992 - In June, the U.S. Supreme Court rules in *Planned Parenthood of Southeast Pennsylvania v. Casey* that certain reasonable regulations of abortion can be enacted.

1989 - The U.S. Supreme Court broadens its restrictions for tax-payer funded abortions in *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services*.

1986 - *Thornberg v. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists* declares that informed consent is unconstitutional.

1983 - Under *Akron v. Akron Center for Reproductive Health*, informed consent is not required, and requirements for a waiting period, hospitalization for second trimester abortions, and "humane" disposal of fetal remains are declared unconstitutional.

1983 - The U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee "observes that no significant legal barriers of any kind whatsoever exist today in the United States for a woman to obtain an abortion for any reason during any stage of her pregnancy."

1980 - *Harris v. McRae* declares that the state is not required to fund "medically necessary" abortions for the poor.

1976 - In *Planned Parenthood v. Danforth* spousal and parental consent requirements are ruled unconstitutional, as is prohibition of salt poisoning abortion on medical grounds.

1973 - The *Roe v. Wade* trial determines that abortion is constitutionally protected, and no legislature may impose more than trivial restrictions on it.

1971 - *United States v. Vuitch* upholds the Washington, D.C., statute prohibiting abortion except to preserve the mother's life or health.

1968 - On April 27, the Abortion Act of 1967 comes into effect in the United Kingdom, permitting termination of pregnancy by a registered practitioner, though subject to certain conditions.

1861 - British Parliament passes the Offenses Against the Persons Act, making abortion a criminal offense, punishable by imprisonment.

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