## **American Victims of Abortion**

We are the mothers, the fathers, and the families. They were our children!

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40 Years of Victims Press Conference
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In 1981, nearly ten years after abortion was legalized, I was an anxious, young, pregnant college student.

Not one of the abortionists or Planned Parenthood facility staff that spoke to me told me that I had other options, or the risks or dangers of having an abortion to my health. In fact, I was told repeatedly that I was immature and foolish not to have an abortion. Worst of all, I was not told vital information about the child I was carrying. Including the medical fact that by the time I had the abortion at 12 weeks, my baby already had a beating heart and brain waves!

My baby died February 27, 1981. I have not forgotten one moment of that day, and never will. That single day changed my life forever,

Since 1985 I have served as director of American Victims of Abortion, a national effort to share the personal experiences of women like myself with lawmakers, the media and the public. I have learned in my travels to all 50 states and abroad that my experience is not unique. I have heard my story repeated hundreds of times by women of all kinds.

Legalized abortion has created an industry which denies women information and support to have their children. Women need better options than the death of their baby, when facing abuse, poverty, lack of education, or health risks. Abortion never solves those problems and often makes things much worse.

Forty years after Roe v. Wade women still find themselves struggling to find answers and support when pregnant that respect both mother and child. Abortion is promoted as the only answer to a complex life situation without regard for what comes after.

Forty years after Roe, because it is too politically charged to do so, we have yet to do any kind of long term studies of the actual real life effects on the health of women or the society we live in. In spite of the fact that it is the most common surgery performed on American women today. Also forgotten are the effects on the fathers of these babies! Abortion is always a death in the family leaving behind many victims.

Today is the anniversary of a decision that altered the face of America for all time. It is the anniversary of Roe v. Wade. That single decision has done more than any other to cause harm and disrupt the lives and wellbeing of women, men, their children and their families for decades to come.

As long as abortion remains the cornerstone of the political left we may never see the honest discussion that should happen in America. Until we do women, their babies and their families will pay the highest price!