

The following is taken from the Justice Foundation/Operation Outcry's website at www.operationoutcry.org

The Supreme Court is Listening!

Acknowledges pain and sorrow of abortion but needs more

Thirty-four years after the Supreme Court legalized abortion-on-demand, the tide has turned. It's the beginning of the end of *Roe v. Wade*. Upholding the federal ban on the horrific and gruesome "partial-birth abortion" procedure, the Supreme Court cited The Justice Foundation's Amicus Brief (also known as a friend of the court brief) in its ruling. The brief was filed on behalf of Sandra Cano, who was "Mary Doe" of *Doe v. Bolton* (the companion case to *Roe v. Wade*), and 180 women hurt by abortion.

Citing sworn testimony that The Justice Foundation presented, and acknowledging the argument that "abortion hurts women," the Court recognized that "some women come to regret" their abortions. "Whether to have an abortion requires a difficult and painful moral decision" and is "fraught with emotional consequence," the Court said. The Court also noted that "severe depression and loss of esteem can follow" an abortion. In her dissent, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote: "The Court is surely correct that, for most women, abortion is a painfully difficult decision." Yale Law School professor Jack M. Balkin characterized the inclusion of the testimonies of women and the message that abortion hurts women as follows: "**The new rhetoric of pro-life forces [that Abortion Hurts Women] is no longer just rhetoric. It is now part of Supreme Court doctrine. That is the big news ...**"

What's next? Your testimony can help restore justice and end abortion

Although the Court acknowledged the harm of abortion, it also stated it had "no reliable data to measure" the extent of the problem. The most effective way to show the Court the magnitude of the problem is to collect a much larger number of testimonies. The Justice Foundation has collected affidavits and declarations through its project, Operation Outcry, from approximately 2000 women since the year 2000. This largest known body of direct, sworn testimony in the world that shows the harmful effects of abortion – has been submitted to the U.S. Supreme Court; the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee; state legislatures in Georgia; Louisiana; Mississippi, Ohio, South Dakota, and Texas; and, to lawmakers around the world. In the recent Supreme Court decision upholding the ban on partial-birth abortion, the Court cited The Justice Foundation's Amicus brief (also known as a friend of the court brief) and the testimony filed with it on behalf of women hurt by abortion. South Dakota, which conducted the first government study in 30 years that looked at both sides of the abortion issue, conclusively determined that abortion hurts women and should be illegal, based significantly on this evidence. South Dakota's courageous step to ban abortion emboldened lawmakers in a dozen other states to propose similar laws. Louisiana and Mississippi have passed an abortion ban, which will become effective when *Roe v. Wade* is overturned. Your testimony in a declaration can be used in legal cases and in state legislative efforts to end or limit abortion, such as an abortion ban, informed consent, parental consent, etc. To maintain confidentiality, initials only can be used if you wish. Personal contact information is never released

Why we Collect Declarations

To save others from being hurt by abortion. Our primary motivation is a loving desire to save others from the devastation of abortion and to save children in the womb from death by abortion.

The power of testimony touched the Supreme Court, which cited pages of sworn testimony – not the legal arguments of The Justice Foundation.

Written testimony is the most confidential, private, simplest, long-lasting, and effective form of witnessing. Individuals who wish to protect their identity can provide a confidential sworn statement that can be used continually with only their initials.

The Court's ruling is an invitation to provide further evidence of the harm of abortion. See excerpts from the Court's opinion. For the first time ever, the Court is listening to the "wailing women" who can "teach our nation to mourn" for children lost to abortion. See Jeremiah 9:17-24.

We need to be ready. The Court will revisit the abortion issue, although we do not know when.

We need to show the Court the magnitude of the harm of abortion. We encourage all who have experienced the devastating and life-impacting effects of abortion to come forth as witnesses for truth and participating in a healing program. If the truth stays hidden in darkness and in the secret places of hearts, then the lie that abortion is good for women and men will continue. When women and men come forth, the truth will prevail.

States need evidence to regulate or ban abortion. For example, see the South Dakota Task Force to Study Abortion Report, which heavily quoted declarations of women hurt by abortion, at:

http://ivotemyvalues.com/pdf/contentmgmt/Task_Force_Report.pdf.