



RALLY

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to choose does not belong in the hands of Justice (Antonin) Scalia. ... It belongs to only one group, American women and American women alone."

Likewise, Lonsdale said because of the highly conservative U.S. Supreme Court, which is expected to overturn the 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision this year, the only hope for reproductive rights lies with Congress. Lonsdale called for the passage of the Freedom of Choice Act.

The act, if passed, would guarantee all women the same right to abortion now provided by Roe vs. Wade. It has been heard by a congressional subcommittee, but is waiting until Congress acts on a bill called HR 3090.

Congress is considering reauthorizing the bill, which gives money to family planning clinics to provide low-cost reproductive health services to low-

income patients. This bill would essentially reverse the gag rule recently passed by the Supreme Court.

The gag rule essentially prevents federally funded clinics from giving any information concerning abortion to a woman, even if she needs one for medical reasons. The march comes at a highly politicized time for abortion rights, when the Supreme Court will hand down its decision in the abortion case, Planned Parenthood of Southern Pennsylvania vs. Casey.

The Pennsylvania statute under review by the Supreme Court contains seven provisions that would restrict a woman's access to abortion, including spousal notification and parental consent in the case of minors.

A monitor for the protest, Jessica George, a Lane Community College freshman, said she decided to get involved because this was one of the last chances to show her support before the



Supreme Court hands down its decision in July and a good time to support pro-choice candidates before the elections.

"When it comes to abortion, I believe quality of life should be protected, not quantity," George said.

Another speaker at the Federal Building, Mary Widoff,

Planned Parenthood director, called for three specific actions in the future of reproductive rights.

Widoff said the gag rule should be overturned.

Widoff also advocated legalizing RU 486, the so-called abortion drug, in America, and passing the Freedom of Choice

An energized crowd (far left) gathered at the EMU Courtyard before marching to the Federal Building downtown. Children (left) show support for women's rights. A marcher gets creative with his sign (below).

Photos by Sol Neelman and Michael Shindler



Act, which would legalize abortions for women, despite the Supreme Court's decision.

Kitty Piercy of National Abortion Rights Action League said five women successfully organized the event, representing the Women's Law Forum, NOW, NARAL and Students for Choice.

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