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SANDERS REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR CHOICE

On the twentieth anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision which established the right of free choice on the matter of abortion, Rep. Bernard Sanders, today reaffirmed his support for a woman's right to choose. He congratulated the Clinton administration for its quick action to reverse Reagan-Bush actions which have limited woman's rights to abortion and medical progress.

"I realize that abortion is a contentious and controversial issue on which many people have deeply held personal beliefs," Sanders said. "But I feel strongly that in the final analysis, the issue of abortion must be decided by the women herself and that the government should stay out of the decision."

Among today's Administration actions supported by Sanders are:

- repeal of the "gag rule", which prohibits public family planning clinics from giving out information about abortion.
- elimination of the ban on the medical use of fetal tissue, which is important in the treatment of Parkinson's disease and other illnesses.
- elimination of the ban on abortions for military personnel in military hospitals overseas.

Sanders also supports lifting the ban on importation of the drug RU-486, which is used for abortion and contraception in many countries and which shows great promise for the treatment of cancer and other diseases. The Clinton administration has promised to ask the Food and Drug Administration to review the ban.

"Although the past two administrations were unable to completely eliminate freedom of choice, they did restrict women's access to accurate information and safe medical treatment. I applaud the Clinton administration for acting swiftly to remove these restrictions," Sanders said.

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